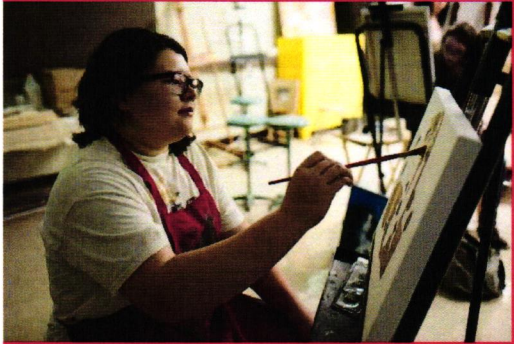




Wharton County Junior College

Institutional Effectiveness Newsletter



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PURPOSE AND MISSION

The Office of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness is devoted to ensuring that the college community has access to the information and resources needed to make data-driven decisions across all levels of the institution. As a step toward the fulfillment of this mission, the Office will release a monthly newsletter with data and findings that will help advance institutional planning and promote a culture of continuous quality improvement.

CONTACT US

For questions or concerns, please contact:
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Happy New Year!

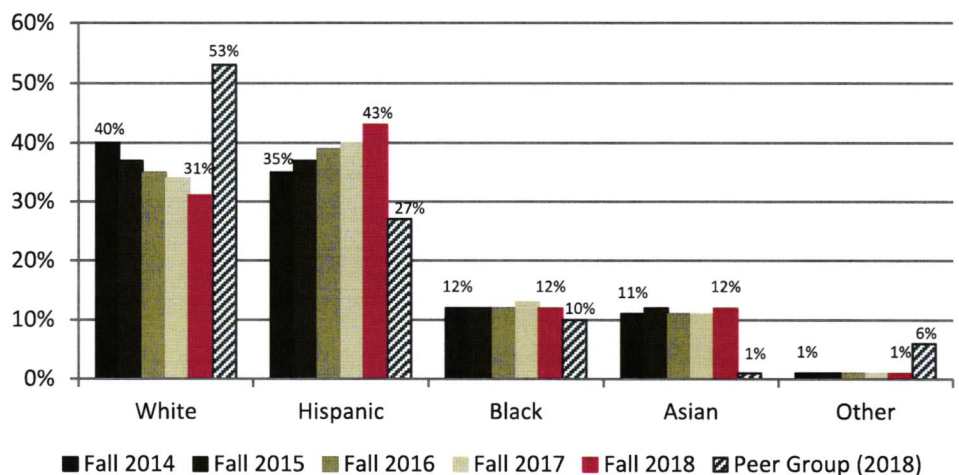
"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." C.S. Lewis

Here we are in a New Year! 2020 – A number synonymous with clarity, sharpness, acuity – VISION! As we embark on this next chapter, I urge you to take a moment to reflect on all that we have done and all that we still wish to do – for our students, our colleagues, ourselves, and our school. Thank you for your continued resolution to make this institution an exceptional one!

IPEDS Data Feedback Report

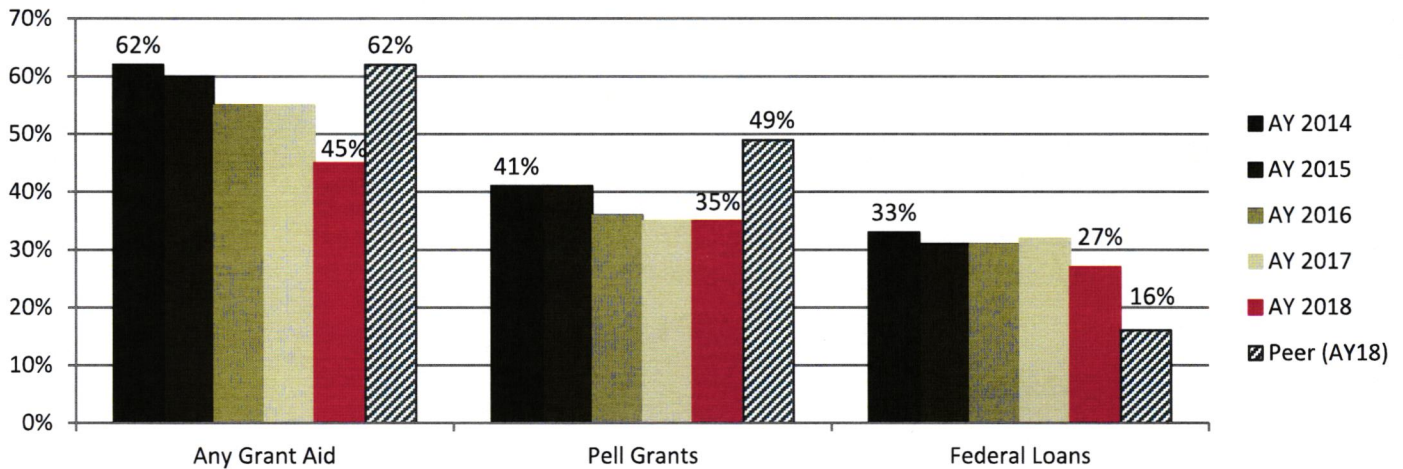
Each year the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) collects data from institutions of higher education across the United States. The IPEDS 2019 Data Feedback Report for WCJC provides an overview of key enrollment and success metrics compared to our peers from across the state. IPEDS Data Feedback Reports can be found on the WCJC Intranet at ["Institutional Research > IPEDS"](#).

Percent Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity; WCJC (Fall 2014-2018) vs. Peer Group



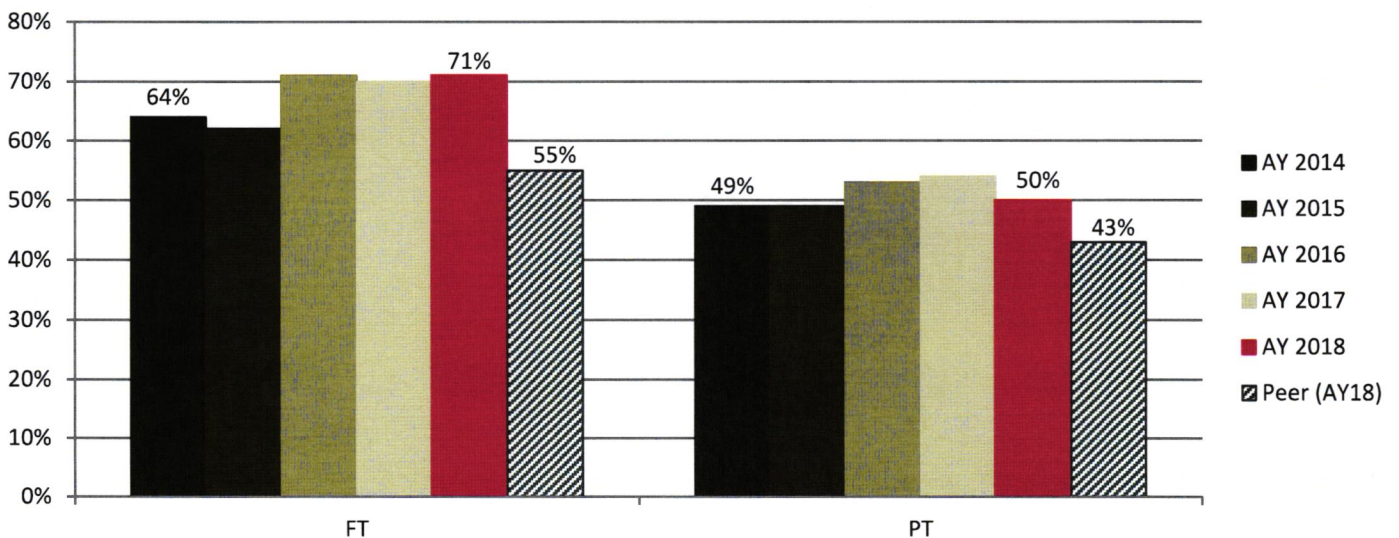
The previous figure exhibits WCJC enrollment trends for various race/ethnicity groups over the five most recent fall semesters and compared to the median percentage for our Medium Community College (CC) peer group. In Fall 2018, WCJC served a significantly higher percentage of both Hispanic and Asian students than what was “typical” for our Medium CC peers.

Student Awards by Type – FT FTIC Students; WCJC (AY 2014 – 2018) vs. Peer Group



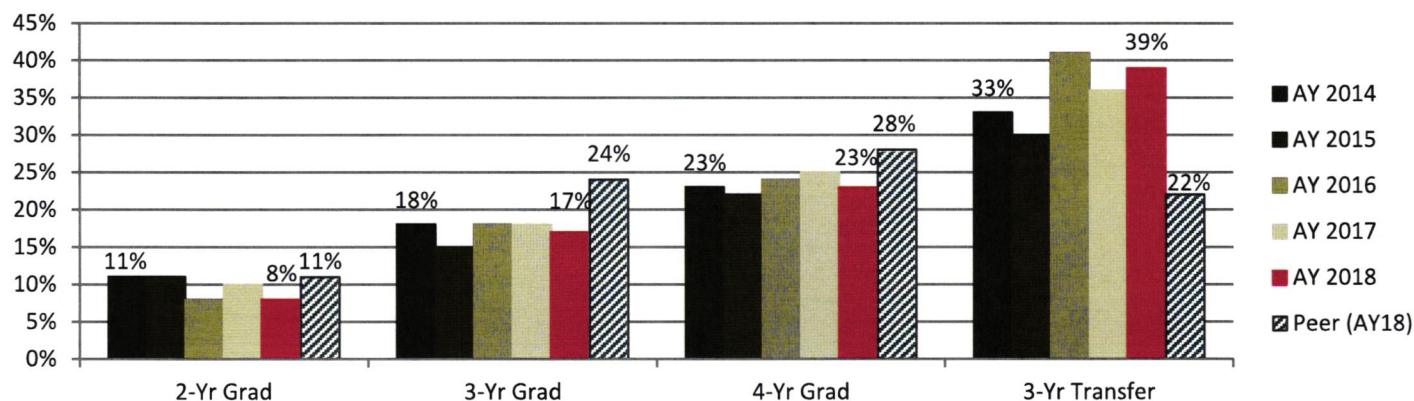
The percentage of full-time (FT), first-time in college (FTIC) students who receive grant aid (see above) has decreased over the five most recent academic years, most notably, those students receiving Pell grants. The AY 2018 comparison to our Medium CC peers indicates that WCJC had a lesser percentage of students that are awarded grant aid, specifically Pell, than the median for our peers. Statewide data shows that as institutions increase the percentage of students who are awarded Pell, enrollment increases as well. Therefore, it is critical to ensure that our students are aware of and applying for federal aid throughout their time at WCJC.

Fall-to-Fall Retention – FT & PT FTIC Students; WCJC (AY 2014 – 2018) vs. Peer Group



Fall-to-Fall retention rates (see above) for FT, FTIC students has experienced an increase over the five most recent academic years, with a majority of the increase (~9 percentage points) occurring in AY 2016. Retention rates for part-time (PT) students have experienced no significant fluctuations over this same timeframe. Retention rates for WCJC FTIC students are significantly higher than the median for our Medium CC peers, both for the FT (+16 percentage points) and PT (+7 percentage points) designations.

Completion and Transfer Rates – FT FTIC Students; WCJC (AY 2014 – 2018) vs. Peer Group



No true trends are evident within the completion data for WCJC FT FTIC students and graduation rates have remained relatively consistent over the five most recent academic years. Currently, fewer than one in every ten students graduate in two years from WCJC. WCJC students consistently report higher 3-year transfer rates than graduation rates in any category, with a five year high of 41% in AY 2016 and a current rate of 39% in AY 2018. When compared to completion rates for our Medium CC peer group, WCJC reports a lesser percentage of graduates across all three metrics. However, the 3-year transfer rate for WCJC FT FTIC students is 1.7 times higher than the median transfer rate for all Medium CC.

General Education (Gen Ed) Update

Beginning in 2014, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) established a set of six core objectives that were identified as being foundational within the Texas Core Curriculum. As such, all Texas institutions are required to assess student mastery for each of these component areas. Moreover, our regional accrediting agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, also requires the assessment of general education competencies as part of our five- and ten-year compliance certifications.

WCJC has established a three-year assessment cycle through which to monitor student performance within each competency, with two objectives assessed in a given academic year. In Fall 2018, faculty assessed **Empirical and Quantitative Skills**. This semester, WCJC faculty will assess the component area of **Social Responsibility**.

Social Responsibility is defined as “intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities”.

In order to assess this objective, a representative sample of core courses will be selected following the 12th class day. At that time, those faculty whose courses have been chosen for the sample will be contacted directly by Amanda Allen with all necessary information to complete the evaluation process, so be on the lookout! Thanks, in advance, for your participation!



Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025

The WCJC Strategic Plan serves as the vision for the institution, establishing clear goals, outcomes, and targets for the future of the institution. All other planning within the college should be in direct support and alignment with the Strategic Plan.

The college is currently in the process of developing our next five-year Strategic Plan which will officially launch in Fall 2020! Since Fall 2018, the institution has engaged in a number of initiatives to help prepare for and develop our new five-year plan. Initiatives included faculty and staff surveys, student surveys and focus groups, data analyses, and much more.

During Fall 2019, a Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF), comprised of representatives from across the institution, was assembled and charged with identifying the Vision, Values, and Goals for the new plan. Following a comprehensive review of the institution, and after eliciting feedback from peers and colleagues, the SPTF developed the following planning framework:

Vision

Wharton County Junior College will ensure that our *diverse student population* receives the highest level of *educational opportunities* through well-designed *transfer and workforce pathways*, which will allow students to reach their *personal goals* while shaping the *future of the communities we serve*.

Values

Integrity

We are dedicated to being *open, honest, and responsible* in our actions and our words. These tenets provide the *foundation for everything we do*, as individuals and as a college community.

Quality

We strive to provide an environment of *educational excellence and rigor*. This environment is shaped by the long-term goals of the *students and the communities we serve*.

Commitment

We are *steadfast in the pursuit of our goals*, both for ourselves and for our students.

Student-Focused

We value our *students beyond all else*. We build trusting *relationships* grounded in *fairness, respect, and accountability*.

Goals

Expand Our Capacity to Serve Students

WCJC must expand our capacity to serve students across our service area by strategically *enhancing our physical and technological facilities, resources, and infrastructure*.

Increase Student Engagement and Success

WCJC must provide students with *exceptional educational opportunities and experiences* that foster increased student engagement, persistence, and success.

Enhance Communication, Both Internally and Externally

WCJC must enhance our internal communication to promote a *common vision* across the institution and better engage all employees. WCJC must enhance our external communication in order to *bring regional attention to our brand* and maximize support for the college.