

The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance

HOW DO FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS RANK IN *COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEK'S* TOP 100 ASSOCIATE DEGREE PRODUCERS?

Each year *Community College Week* (CC Week) issues the “Top 100 Associate Degree Producers” based on an analysis of National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) data. The accomplishments of Florida College System (FCS) students and institutions are consistently well-represented on these lists. CC Week noted, “Although Florida ranks fourth in population, it conferred more associate degrees and shorter-term certificates than the larger states of Texas and New York.” For the 2013 CC Week report, FCS institutions were ranked highly among the Top 100 colleges that confer degrees to Hispanic and African-American students. Similarly, multiple Florida colleges ranked among the Top 100 for health professions and related clinical sciences; liberal arts and sciences, general studies, and humanities; and nursing. Several single FCS institutions were recognized among the Top 100 in specific disciplines. For example, Santa Fe College ranked 12th in the nation in conferring degrees in agriculture, agriculture operations and related sciences while Valencia College was ranked for disciplines in business and engineering (among others).

Nationwide the number of associate degrees conferred in 2011-12 increased by eight percent to over one million. Over the last five years, over half of FCS institutions have consistently ranked among the CC Week's Top 100 for associate degrees in all disciplines; a handful of Florida colleges ranked among the top 10 (Miami Dade College, Valencia College, Broward College and Florida State College at Jacksonville). In 2011-12, the FCS collectively awarded 62,614 associate in arts degrees and 14,953 associate in applied science and associate in science degrees, totaling 77,567 associate degrees. FCS associate degree completions are up 17.2 percent over last year. The FCS also awarded 23,135 certificates during the same period. When including Education Preparation Institute and baccalaureate graduates, the FCS produced 105,762 completions, which is an all-time high for the system.

The FCS has consistently served as a major access point to higher education for students from underrepresented groups. Table 1 shows the colleges that ranked among the top 10 in the nation in the number of Hispanic and African-

American students earning associate degrees. Miami Dade College ranked first in the country with 7,958 Hispanic student completions. Valencia College and Broward College were ranked fifth and sixth, respectively. Overall, 10 Florida colleges were ranked among the top in the number of associate degrees conferred to Hispanic students (in addition to the three listed above, Palm Beach State College, Hillsborough Community College, Seminole State College of Florida, Edison State College, Indian River State College,

Santa Fe College and Florida State College at Jacksonville). Over half of the Florida colleges were ranked among the nation's Top 100 in conferring associate degrees to African-American students. Table 1 shows that Miami Dade College was ranked second in the nation in this category, followed closely by Broward College (3rd), Florida State College at Jacksonville (5th) and Valencia College (7th). Other Florida colleges ranked among the top in the nation for conferring associate degrees to African-American students were Tallahassee Community College, Palm Beach State College, Hillsborough Community College, Indian River State College, Seminole State College of Florida, St. Petersburg College, Eastern Florida State College, Daytona State College, Santa Fe College, Pensacola State College and Edison State College. Fourteen colleges were ranked among the Top 100 in overall minority students earning associate degrees; Miami Dade College ranked first, Broward College ranked third and Valencia College ranked fourth. The system is proud of the accomplishments of the students being served and will continue to strive to help more individuals reach their educational and career goals.

Florida's comprehensive statewide articulation agreement guarantees admission to students who earn the associate in arts degree to one of the twelve public state universities or one of the baccalaureate degree-granting FCS institutions. This policy encourages students to earn an associate degree before transferring to a baccalaureate program. This policy will also help the FCS institutions rise to the challenge of meeting the system's goal of doubling the number of graduates by 2020 and positions FCS students and institutions to remain among the Top 100 associate degree producers in the nation.

To read more about the Top 100 Associate Degree Producers, please visit CC Week's [site](#). Educational opportunities are available very close to home. To locate the colleges nearest to you and enroll, please visit the [Florida College Directory](#).

For assistance, contact the Florida College System Research & Analytics
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Total Hispanic		
College	Rank	Completions
Miami Dade College	1	7,958
Valencia College	5	2,129
Broward College	6	1,914
Total African-American		
Miami Dade College	2	2,156
Broward College	3	1,687
Florida State College at Jacksonville	5	1,254
Valencia College	7	1,115

Source: *Community College Week* based on an analysis of NCES data.