

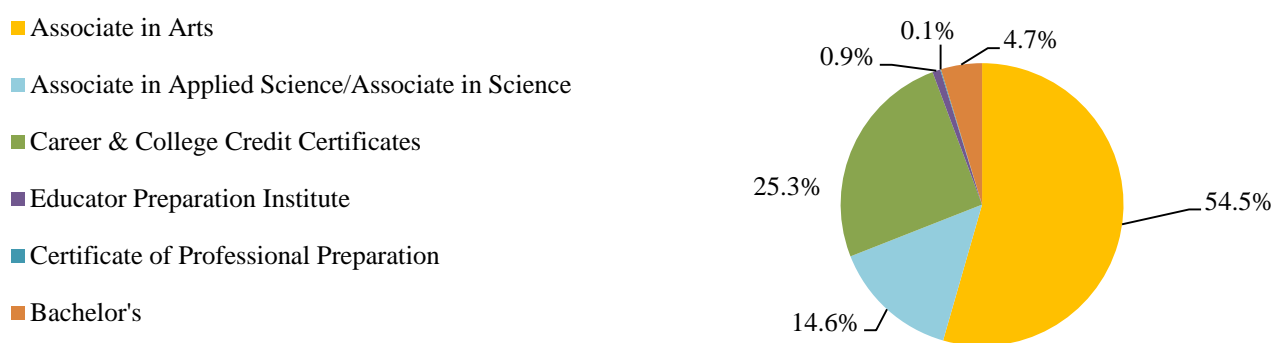
## The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance

What degrees, certificates or other awards are available from the Florida College System?

Florida College System (FCS) institutions offer degrees and certificates of varying lengths to help Floridians reach their goals. The most popular FCS award is the Associate in Arts (AA) which provides the first two years of a bachelor's degree. The AA prepares students to transfer to a State University System institution, a private college or university or to continue their upper division studies in the FCS to complete a bachelor's degree. In 2012-13, AA program enrollments exceeded 348,000. The majority of the remaining programs prepare graduates to directly enter the workforce upon completion. The FCS online portal [Smart-College-Choices](#) provides outcome information (e.g., number completed, number continuing education, percent employed and estimated average annual full-time wages) for all programs to help students and their families make informed decisions about their educational pathways.

Figure 1 shows the proportion of degrees and certificates awarded by type in 2012-13. **A total of 105,886 degrees and certificates were awarded and approximately 7 out of 10 were associate degrees** (AA, Associate of Applied Science and Associate in Science combined).

**Figure 1. Degrees/Certificates Awarded, 2012-13**



Source: CCTCMIS and FCS Research & Analytics

Table 1 contains a brief description of each award type. Student progress is measured with either clock hours (transferrable per statewide articulation agreement) or college credit hours. Also shown in the table are the approximate ranges of hours required to earn a given award (programs vary in length based on the subject matter studied).

**Table 1. Program Award Types Available Through the Florida College System**

Award Name	Clock or College Credit Hours	Number of Years and Hours of Full Time Study Required for Completion
<b>Advanced Technical Certificates (ATC)</b> – Are generally designed for individuals who have already completed a two year AS or AAS degree and are seeking advanced, specialized preparation in a particular career field to supplement their degree.	College Credit	½ to 1 ½ years 9-45 (College)
<b>Applied Technology Diplomas (ATD)</b> – Are offered by colleges or in school districts as non-college credit. An ATD program is a course of study that is part of an Associate in Science degree (AS) or an Associate in Applied Science degree (AAS), is less than sixty (60) credit hours, and leads to employment in a specific occupation. Examples include Dental Assisting and Emergency Medical Technician.	College Credit /Clock	½ to 2 years 11- 59 (College) 1,000-1,200 (Clock)
<b>Apprentice Programs (APPR)</b> – Are a combination of on-the-job training and related classroom instruction in which students learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation. Programs are sponsored by apprenticeship organizations in partnership with a College or District Technical Center.  Students work during the day and attend classes one or two nights a week or on weekends during the academic year. Programs require from one to four years for completion. Successful completers are awarded journeyman credentials, which are nationally recognized. Examples of apprenticeship programs include Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Heating Technology; Building Construction Technologies; Commercial Foods and Culinary Art; Plumbing Technology; Machinist; Roofing, and Heavy Equipment Operation.	Clock	1 to 4 years Up to 10,000 (Clock)

**Table 1. Program Award Types Available Through the Florida College System (continued)**

Award Name	Clock or College Credit Hours	Number of Years and Hours of Full Time Study Required for Completion
<p><b>Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree</b> - Is designed to prepare students for employment in a technical occupation. The program is a two-year degree program. Generally, AAS degrees are designed for students who do not want to pursue education beyond an associate's level degree. The AAS degree must include a minimum of fifteen (15) college credits of general education coursework</p>	College Credit	2 to 2 ½ years 60 – 88 College
<p><b>Associate in Arts (AA) degree</b> – Is designed for students who intend to earn a bachelor's degree from a college or university offering four year degrees. The degree requires a minimum of two years of full-time study or the equivalent. The AA degree is equivalent to the freshman and sophomore years (lower division) of a baccalaureate program and requires a total of 60 college-level credit hours for completion including thirty-six (36) general education credits and foreign language competence. The Statewide Articulation Agreement guarantees the transfer of 60 credits earned as part of the AA degree.</p>	College Credit	2 Years 60 College
<p><b>Associate in Science (AS) degree</b> –The AS degree is a transfer degree and a basis for admission to a related bachelor's degree. The AS degree is awarded upon satisfactory completion of a planned program of instruction comprised of the standard credit hour length established, after demonstration of the attainment of predetermined and specified performance requirements. Each Florida College System institution is authorized to provide programs of career and technical instruction consisting of lower division college credit courses as defined in subparagraph 6A-10.033(1)(a)2., F.A.C., to prepare for entry into employment.</p>	College Credit	2 Years 60 – 77 College
<p><b>Bachelor's degree</b> – Is designed for students in a specific field of study that can generally be completed in four years of full-time study (120 credits) but the time period can vary depending upon the student and course of study.</p>	College Credit	4 Years 120-134 College
<p><b>Certificate of Professional Preparation (CPP)</b> – Consists of not less than nine (9) and not more than thirty (30) credit hours of courses and course equivalent modules to prepare baccalaureate degree holders for licensure, certification, credentialing, examinations, or other demonstrations of competency necessary for entry into a professional occupation. An example is the Certificate of Professional Preparation in Project Management. The standard credit hour length of all associate in science degree programs shall be maintained according to the Department of Education program length <a href="#">publication</a>. The associate in science degree must include a minimum of fifteen (15) college credits of general education coursework.</p>	College Credit	½ to 1 year 9 – 30 College
<p><b>Educator Preparation Institute (EPI)</b> – Provides an alternate route to teacher certification for mid-career professionals and college graduates who were not education majors. Students with a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university may enter an EPI program to prepare to take the Florida Teacher Certification Exam (FTCE) in Professional Preparation and Education Competence. EPI is a type of CPP.</p>	College Credit	About 1 year 21 College
<p><b>Career Certificate</b> – The Career Certificate program consists of a series of vocational courses that prepare students for entry level employment in specific career fields. The programs vary in length from 40 hours to more than 1,500 hours. Examples of Career Certificates include Correctional Probation Officer, Cosmetology, Culinary Operations, Fire Fighter, Medical Assistant, and Practical Nursing.</p>	Clock	1 ½ years 40 – 2,840 Clock
<p><b>College Credit Certificate (CCC)</b> – Include a series of college credit courses that prepares students for entry-level employment in specific career fields or for career advancement. These certificates can generally be completed in one year or less. College Credit Certificates must be part of an AS or AAS degree. Examples include Drafting, Information Technology Technician, Office Specialist, Entrepreneurship, Computer Programming, or Educational Assisting.</p>	College Credit	½ to 1 ½ years 11-50 College
<p>Sources: Florida Department of Education, Division of Florida Colleges, <a href="#">Educator Preparation Institutes</a>. Florida Department of Education, Division of Career and Adult Education, <a href="#">Apprenticeship</a>. Florida Department of State, Florida Administrative Code &amp; Florida Administrative Register, <a href="#">Rule 6A-14.030</a> (all other awards).</p>		

For more information about what programs are available, please visit the FCS institution [directory](#) to find the nearest college.