

Part Two – Student Success

Course Completion and Retention Rates for Comparable Colleges

In order to extend the analysis, the benchmarks mentioned above can be tracked for other comparable college. Using data from the Chancellor's Office Data Mart, and recent data analysis on transfer rate comparisons, it is possible to construct a "similar schools" analysis that provides an external benchmark for comparison. For this report two criteria were identified to make "comparable college" comparisons:

- 1) The college had to have educational test scores (API scores) that were similar to Delta College; and,
- 2) The college had to have similar enrollment levels in terms of student head count (within a total enrollment range of roughly 30,000 to 70,000 students per year)

These two criteria help control for the quality of entering students, and the relative size of a college campus. Using these benchmarks, data for 20 comparison colleges are displayed against the College's retention rate and successful course completion rate for the 1998-2002 period (Figure 16). Even when controlling for these similar factors, the College's retention and completion rates are lower than comparable colleges. College managers, faculty, and staff might use these comparison data to establish standards to achieve in future years.

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Figure 16
Retention and Success Rates at Comparable Colleges
1998-2002

