

**Part Two – Student Success****Successful Course Completion Rates**

A similar pattern of student performance is reflected in Figure 15, with the analysis shifting to a measure of successful course completion. Here the indicator tracks the percentage of students who enroll and earn a grade of "A," "B," "C," or "CR." As with retention, rates of successful course completion at the College lag behind state-wide averages for community college students. In spring 2002, 60.3 percent of the College's students earned a grade of "C" or better, whereas the state-wide average was 67 percent.

This benchmark is one that deserves some extended commentary. Faculty may view this measure and suggest that Delta College students are no worse than state-wide averages; it is simply that other colleges may have higher rates of "grade inflation." In other words, some might argue that the College's students could hold their own in strict head-to-head comparisons, but that faculty at other colleges may simply be "easier" graders when it comes to marking papers and tests, and therefore students at those colleges benefit from grade inflation. This argument presumes that grade inflation is a more significant problem at other campuses. It is probably best to presume that the proximity of the Delta College score on this indicator to the statewide average, and the manner in which the two measures parallel each other over time, highlights a conclusion that Delta College is relatively in line with average rates of student course

Part Two – Student Success

completion across California’s community college system.

