



Student Achievement

2021 Annual Report

In its Policy “Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure”, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) requires that institutions publish “statements of goals for student achievement and the success of students in achieving those goals.” Compliance with SACSCOC Core Requirement (CR) 8.1 (Student Achievement) includes the requirement that institutions publish goals and outcomes for student achievement appropriate to the institution’s mission, the nature of the students the institution serves, and the kinds of programs offered.

The specific criteria Louisiana Delta Community College (LDCC) has selected are: credential completions, retention rates, and graduation rates. The goals for student achievement (target levels of student performance), thresholds (minimum accepted student performance), and outcomes (actual results) are reported for each of these criteria. The goals, thresholds, and actual outcomes will be updated regularly and will provide evidence of compliance with the SACSCOC policy and the Core Requirement to peer evaluators who will review LDCC’s fifth year interim and decennial accreditation reports.

Mission

Louisiana Delta Community College, an open-admission, comprehensive community college, provides the citizens of northeast Louisiana with affordable and accessible high-quality educational programs, services, and modern workforce training. Supported by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, a dedicated faculty and staff fulfill this mission through their commitment to student achievement, academic excellence, lifelong learning, and the use of current technology.

1. Credential Completions

Criterion: Total Unduplicated Count of Certificates, Technical Diplomas, and Associate Degrees

Rationale: The number of students (total unduplicated count) earning a credential (certificate, technical diploma, associate degree) recognized by the Louisiana Board of Regents is a standard metric that LDCC tracks and reports to federal and state governing entities each year. This metric aligns with Objectives 5, 7, and 8 of LDCC’s Strategic and Operational Plans; with Goal 1 of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System’s (LCTCS) “Our Louisiana 2020” initiative; and with the Board of Regents’ Strategic Plan, 2020-21 to 2024-25. This information can be found on the Louisiana Board of Regents’ website (regents.la.gov) under “Data and Publications”.

Outcome: LDCC seeks to increase the number of students earning a credential (certificate, technical diploma, associate degree).

Threshold of acceptability: The average number of completions for the previous 5 years.

Rationale: Establishing the recent performance average as the threshold serves to provide a mechanism to monitor whether the College sustains a general upward trend in outcomes.

Goal: LDCC has set a goal to exceed the previous five-year average number of completions by 5% or more.

Rationale: This goal is in alignment with Objectives 5, 8, and 8 of LDCC’s Strategic and Operational Plans for credential completions (certificates, technical diplomas, and associate degrees) and is representative of one year’s growth under the 5-year plan.

Performance Data: Reported to Louisiana Board of Regents and IPEDS annually.

Cohort	Goal*	Threshold**	Actual
AY 2020-2021	578	551	808
* Represents a 5% increase above the previous five-year average			
**Previous five-year average			

Evaluation of Data: LDCC exceeded the threshold and the goal.

2. Retention Rates

Criterion: Fall-to-Fall Retention

Rationale: The Fall-to-Fall (first-to-second year) retention of first-time, full-time, degree- and credential-seeking students is a standard metric that LDCC tracks and reports to state governing entities each year. This metric aligns with Objective 2 of LDCC’s Strategic and Operational Plans. At LDCC, these cohorts consist of students who are attending college for the first-time, are enrolled for at least 12 semester hours, and are enrolled in a credit-earning program leading to a credential recognized by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

The Fall-to-Fall retention rate is calculated based on the number of these students who enroll each fall and who are still enrolled in the subsequent fall. Enrollment for each term is reported to the Louisiana Board of Regents and calculated rates can be found on their website (regents.la.gov) under “Data and Publications”.

Outcome: LDCC seeks to increase the fall-to-fall retention rate of first-time, full-time, degree- and credential-seeking students.

Threshold of acceptability: The average of the fall-to-fall retention rates from the previous 5 years.

Rationale: A five-year average is used to account for variances due to natural disasters, economic fluctuations, etc.

Goal: LDCC has set a goal to meet or exceed its highest achieved fall-to-fall retention rate in the 5 years prior.

Rationale: LDCC seeks to consistently improve its fall-to-fall retention rate.

Performance Data: Calculated by the Louisiana Board of Regents based on reported enrollment.

Cohort	Goal*	Threshold**	Actual
Fall 19 to Fall 20	53.3	47.1	51.5
* Highest achieved rate in previous 5 years **Previous five-year average rate			

Evaluation of Data: LDCC exceeded the threshold but did not meet the goal.

Criterion: Fall-to-Spring Retention

Rationale: The Fall-to-Spring retention of first-time, full-time, degree- and credential-seeking students is a standard metric that LDCC tracks and reports to state governing entities each year. This metric aligns with Objective 3 of LDCC’s Strategic and Operational Plans. At LDCC, these cohorts consist of students who are attending college for the first-time, are enrolled for at least 12 semester hours, and are enrolled in a credit-earning program leading to a credential recognized by the Louisiana Board of Regents.

The Fall-to-Spring retention rate is calculated internally based on the number of these students who enroll each fall and who are still enrolled in the subsequent spring. Enrollment for each term is reported to the Louisiana Board of Regents but rates are calculated internally by Institutional Research.

Outcome: LDCC seeks to increase the fall-to-spring retention rate of first-time, full-time, degree- and credential-seeking students.

Threshold of acceptability: The average of the fall-to-spring retention rates from the previous 5 years.

Rationale: A five-year average is used to account for variances due to natural disasters, economic fluctuations, etc.

Goal: LDCC has set a goal to meet or exceed its highest achieved fall-to-fall retention rate in the 5 years prior.

Rationale: LDCC seeks to consistently improve its fall-to-spring retention rate.

Performance Data: Calculated internally based on reported enrollment to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

Cohort	Goal*	Threshold**	Actual
Fall 20 to Spring 21	77.7	73.4	72.9
* Highest achieved rate in previous 5 years **Previous five-year average rate			

Evaluation of Data: LDCC did not meet the threshold or the goal.

3. Graduation Rates

Criterion: National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Total Graduation Rate (Key Student Completion Indicator)

Rationale: Graduation rates, like retention rates, are standard metrics that LDCC tracks and reports to federal and state governing entities each year. The National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Total Graduation Rate was selected by LDCC because it includes first-time degree- and certificate seeking students attending the College (both full-time and part-time) and tracks completions at subsequent institutions. Because LDCC is an open-admissions college, enrollment consists of a significant number of nontraditional students (who may advance at a slower pace than traditional students) and many transfer to other institutions to continue their education. A six-year graduation rate allows better tracking of long-term success of all LDCC students. LDCC

Outcome: LDCC seeks to increase the six-year graduation rate of first-time degree- and certificate-seeking students.

Threshold of acceptability: 5% below the previous year's national benchmark for overall total completion rate.

Rationale: LDCC reviewed the thresholds of similar institutions using National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Graduation Rates and has adopted a common threshold.

Goal: LDCC has set the goal to meet or exceed the previous 3-year average of the national benchmark for overall total completion rate.

Performance Data: Calculated by National Student Clearinghouse.

Cohort	Goal*	Threshold**	Overall Actual
Fall 14	40.28	29.22	37.69
* Previous 3-year average of the National Benchmark for Overall Total Completion Rate. **Represents a 5% decrease from the previous year's National Benchmark for Overall Total Completion Rate			

Evaluation of Data: LDCC exceeded the threshold but did not meet the goal.