

SOUTHWEST

TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Office of Institutional Research

Research Brief - Report

Course Completion

In the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, Southwest established persistence as a targeted goal for 2015. Seventy-one percent of all full-time and part-time degree or certificate-seeking students will either complete an award or enroll in the subsequent term. A substantive component of this goal is course completion. Southwest based its course completion rate only on the grades of all students who completed the semester and received a grade of A, B, C, D, P, or S. In line with the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan, 71% was identified as the threshold of performance.

The average successful course completion rate for the last five fall semesters and the last six spring semesters is 85.8%. For summer semesters it is 91.4%. Though transient students attend Southwest during summer semester, course completion mirrors that of fall and spring, which is comprised of mostly Southwest students.

For the students who completed the semester, the table below details the percentage of grades that were successfully completed versus the unsuccessful grades.

Term/Year	Successful Course Completion Grades A, B, C, D, P, S	Unsuccessful Course Completion Grades F and U
Fall		
2009	84.3%	15.7%
2010	82.6%	17.4%
2011	92.2%	7.8%
2012	86.5%	13.5%
2013	84.3%	15.7%
Fall Average	85.8%	14.2%
Spring		
2009	83.9%	16.1%
2010	83.3%	16.7%
2011	82.6%	17.4%
2012	91.1%	8.9%
2013	86.7%	13.3%
2014	86.9%	13.1%
Spring Average	85.8%	14.2%
Summer		
2009	91.8%	8.2%
2010	88.0%	12.0%
2011	90.1%	9.9%
2012	94.2%	5.8%
2013	91.9%	8.1%
2014	92.6%	7.4%
Summer Average	91.4%	8.6%

Non-Course Completion

Over the last several years, courses were not completed in the fall semester at an average rate of 16.7% and in the spring at an average rate of 15.0%. However, the rate for summer is significantly lower, at an average rate of 8.4%. The table below details the non-completion grades submitted.

Non Completion Grades W and FA	
Fall	
2009	11.4%
2010	12.8%
2011	23.6%
2012	19.2%
2013	16.8%
Fall Average	16.7%
Spring	
2009	11.8%
2010	11.7%
2011	13.6%
2012	21.5%
2013	16.9%
2014	14.7%
Spring Average	15.0%
Summer	
2009	8.3%
2010	8.6%
2011	7.6%
2012	10.4%
2013	7.9%
2014	7.4%
Summer Average	8.4%

Source: SACS-COC follow-up to focus report FR4.1, September 2014