

Wayne Community College Student Achievement Report – Academic Year: 2022-2023

Wayne Community College (WCC) evaluates student achievement in a way consistent with its mission, institutional goals, and institutional learning outcomes. WCC utilizes four criteria for assessing student achievement in compliance with Core Requirements 8.1 of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The four criteria are the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) six-year total completion rate, annual curriculum headcount, new, first-time-attending students at WCC fall-to-fall retention, and annual curriculum completers. The criteria used in this report have been approved by the Wayne Community College's Planning Council. The purpose of WCC's Planning Council is to provide direction, leadership, and oversight for the College's planning and institutional effectiveness process and to ensure continuing compliance with SACSCOC accreditation standards. One of the SACSCOC accreditation standards in which WCC's Planning Council ensures compliance is the core requirement of 8.1 – Student Achievement. SACSCOC Core Requirement 8.1 states, "The institution identifies, evaluates, and publishes goals and outcomes for student achievement appropriate to its mission, the nature of the students it serves, and the kinds of programs offered. The institution uses multiple measures to document student success."

Criterion 1: National Student Clearinghouse Six-Year Total Completion Rate (SACSCOC Key Student Completion Indicator)

Criterion 1 aligns with WCC's institutional Goal 3 - Improve Student Success. The goal is to increase the number of students leaving with a job-ready credential that can lead to successful employment in a global economy and provide better skills, jobs, pay, and continued educational attainment. In addition, criterion 1 supports the College's mission by meeting the educational needs of the communities it serves.

WCC selected the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) six-year total completion rate as its SACSCOC Key Student Completion Indicator because the NSC data more accurately reflects WCC students than the Integrated Postsecondary Education System (IPEDS) Graduation Rate

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data. The NSC six-year total completion rate consists of the first-time, full-time degree-seeking students and the first-time, part-time degree-seeking students, excluding the concurrent high school students from the entering fall cohort. The IPEDS Graduation Rate consists of the first-time, full-time degree-seeking students, excluding the concurrent high school students from the entering fall cohort. WCC serves more part-time students than full-time students. The NSC total completion rate consists of the percentage of the first completion at the same institution, the first completion at different institutions: two-year, and the first completion at different institutions: four-year. The NSC six-year total completion rate is a lagging indicator for student achievement.

WCC's NSC Six-Year Completion Rate

Outcome: WCC seeks to increase its NSC six-year completion rate for first-time fall degree-seeking students.

Threshold of Acceptability: 48.43%

Rationale: The Office of Institutional Effectiveness (IE) used the NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark reports to examine the six-year total graduation rate for the specific entering cohorts to establish acceptability thresholds. The Office of IE examined the following cohorts: fall 2008, fall 2009, and fall 2010. To establish the threshold of acceptability for this criterion, the Office of IE averaged fall 2008, fall 2019, and fall 2010 entering cohort six-year completion rate. The threshold of acceptability is not a moving three-year average. The threshold of acceptability will stay static over the next three years until the Office of IE, along with the Planning Council, reexamines this criterion. The static threshold of acceptability aligns with how WCC establishes its baselines, standards, and targets for Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in its 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for Institutional Effectiveness.

Goal: 50.43%

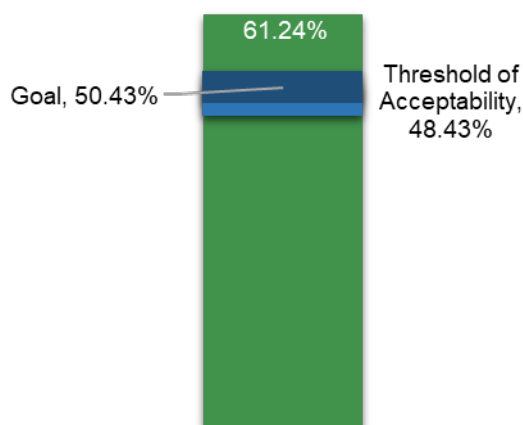
Rationale: The goal is to increase WCC's threshold of acceptability by 2% (48.43% + 2%)

Table 1. WCC’s NSC Six-Year Completion Rate – Entering Cohort

Criterion	Fall 2008 Entering Cohort	Fall 2009 Entering Cohort	Fall 2010 Entering Cohort	3-Year Mean	Fall 2016 Entering Cohort
Six-Year Total Graduation Rate	47.63%	47.25%	50.40%	48.43%	61.24%

Source: National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker Postsecondary Completions Reports

Figure 1. WCC’s NSC Six-Year Completion Rate – Entering Cohort



Evaluation of Data: For first-time, degree-seeking students in the fall 2016 entering cohort (n = 392), the six-year total completion rate was 61.24% (n = 240). **WCC exceeded the threshold of acceptability by 12.81% and the goal by 10.81%.** After the six-year timeframe, 6.09% (n = 24) were still enrolled at any institution, and 32.66% (n = 128) were not enrolled.

Strategies for Improvement: After creating WCC’s homegrown stop-out initiative, WCC joined the fourth cohort of the John M. Belk Endowment’s NC Reconnect project. The project focuses on engaging adult learners and improving student retention. WCC participated in this project to help market to and retain adult learners to help WCC improve student retention among adult learners.

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NSC Six-Year Completion Rate – Benchmark Group

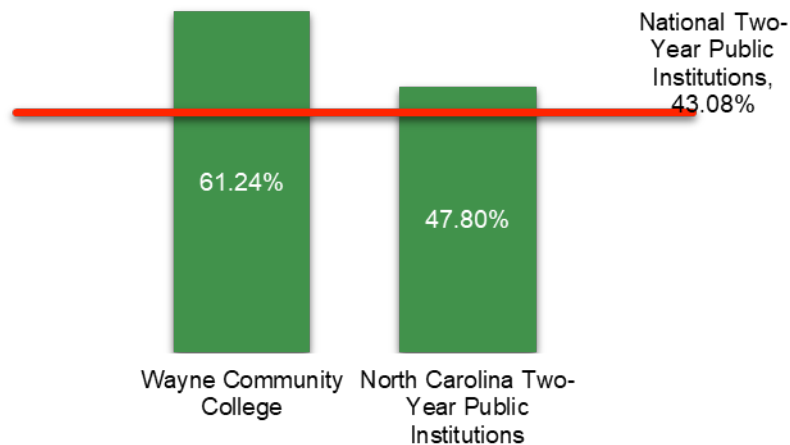
Rationale: WCC opted to establish and compare benchmarks with national and North Carolina two-year public institutions. WCC selected North Carolina two-year public institutions because it included all North Carolina Community Colleges. WCC selected national two-year public institutions due to the accessibility of the NSC Research Center, which provides the national numbers in WCC’s StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark Reports.

Table 2. NSC Six-Year Completion Rate – Benchmark Group

Benchmark Group	Total Enrolled (#)	Total Completion Rate (%)	Still Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)	Not Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)
Wayne Community College	392	61.24%	6.09%	32.66%
North Carolina Two-Year Public Institutions	26,260	47.80%	9.20%	43.10%
National Two-Year Public Institutions	721,089	43.08%	11.55%	45.37%

Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark Reports and NSC Research Center – Completing College National and State Reports with Six- and Eight-Year Completion Rates Dashboards

Figure 2. NSC Six-Year Completion Rate – Benchmark Group



Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark Report and NSC Research Center – Completion College National and State Reports with Six- and Eight-Year Completion Rates Dashboards

Evaluation of Data: WCC’s overall six-year completion rate (61.24%) was higher than the national benchmark for two-year public institutions (43.08%) by 18.16%. WCC’s overall six-year completion rate (61.24%) was higher than that of North Carolina public two-year institutions (47.80%) by 13.44%.

Strategies for Improvement: WCC will monitor its benchmark group to see if WCC is still outperforming the national and North Carolina two-year public institutions.

WCC’s NSC Six-Year Completion Rate by Age at First Entry

Rationale: Disaggregated only by age at first entry will give WCC some insight into its six-year completion rate.

Table 3. WCC’s NSC Six-Year Completion Rate by Age at First Entry

Age at First Entry	Total Enrolled (#)	Total Completion Rate (%)	Still Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)	Not Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)
Overall	392	61.24	6.09	32.66
20 and younger	323	63.80	6.47	29.73
21 - 24	30	40.00	3.33	56.67
Older than 24	39	56.41	5.13	38.46

Source: National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker Postsecondary Completions Reports

Note: Students with missing date of birth data were excluded from the table. As a result, the total number of subgroups may not equal the overall number.

Evaluation of Data: The fall 2016 entering cohort had 392 students. The cohort consists of the following age categories: 20 and younger (82%, n = 323), 21 – 24 (8%, n = 30), and older than 24 (10%, n = 39).

20 and Younger Age Category

The 20 and younger category’s six-year completion rate was 63.80% (n = 206), with a stop-out rate of 29.73% (n = 96). The 20 and younger age category had 6.47 % (n = 21) of students enrolled at any institution after the six-year timeframe. **The 20 and younger age category had the highest six-year completion rate out of all the age categories for the fall 2016 entering cohort.**

21 – 24 Age Category

The 21 – 24 age category’s six-year completion rate was 40.00% (n = 12), with a stop-out rate of 56.67% (n = 17). The 21 – 24 age category had 3.33% (n = 1) of students enrolled at any institution after the six-year timeframe.

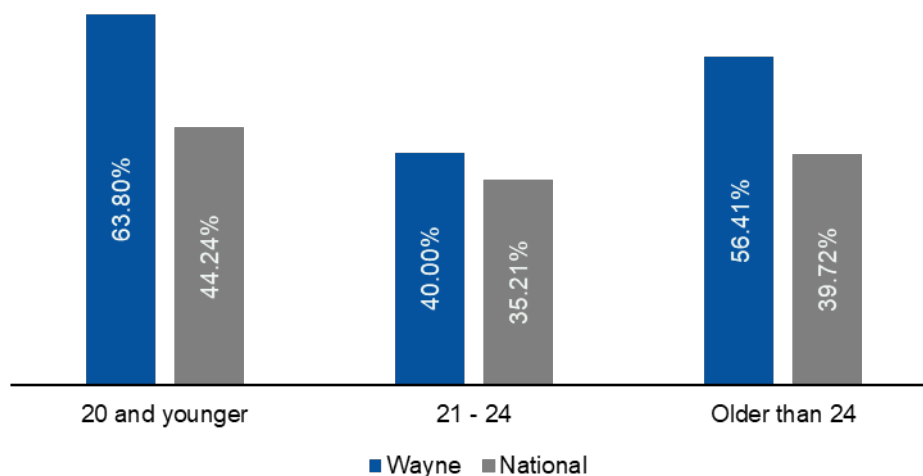
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Older than 24 Age Category

The older than 24 age category's six-year completion rate was 56.41% (n = 22), with a stop-out rate of 38.46% (n = 15). The older than 24 age category had 5.13% (n = 2) students enrolled at any institution after the six-year timeframe.

National Public Two-Year Institutions Benchmark: WCC's 20 and younger age category's six-year completion rate (63.80%) was higher than the national public two-year institutions' 20 and younger category (44.24%) by 19.56%. WCC's 21 – 24 age category's six-year completion rate (40.00%) was higher than the national public two-year institutions' 21 -24 age category (35.21%) by 4.79%. WCC's older than 24 age category's six-year completion rate (56.41%) was higher than the national public two-year institutions' older than 24 age category (39.72%) by 16.69%.

Figure 3. NSC Six-Year Completion Rates by Age at First Entry – WCC vs. National Public Two-Year Institutions

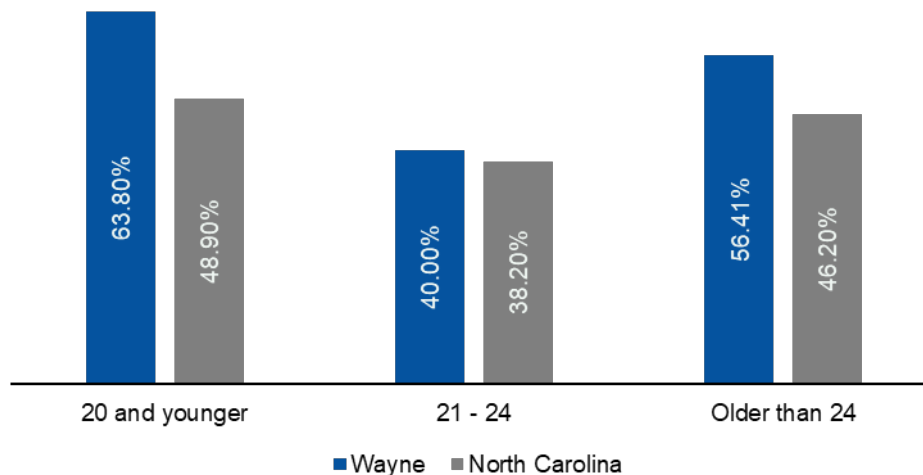


Source: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark Report

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North Carolina Public Two-Year Institutions Benchmark: WCC's 20 and younger age category's six-year completion rate (63.80%) was higher than the North Carolina public two-year institutions' 20 and younger category (48.90%) by 14.90%. WCC's 21 – 24 age category's six-year completion rate (40.00%) was higher than the North Carolina public two-year institution's 21 -24 age category (38.20%) by 1.80%. WCC's older than 24 age category's six-year completion rate (56.41%) was higher than the North Carolina public two-year institutions' older than 24 age category (46.20%) by 10.21%.

Figure 4. NSC Six-Year Completion Rates by Age at First Entry – WCC vs. North Carolina Public Two-Year Institutions



Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark Report and NSC Research Center – Completion College National and State Reports with Six- and Eight-Year Completion Rates Dashboards

Strategies for Improvement: After creating WCC's homegrown stop-out initiative, WCC joined the fourth cohort of the John M. Belk Endowment's NC Reconnect project. The project focuses on engaging adult learners and improving student retention. WCC participated in this project to help market to and retain adult learners to help WCC improve student retention among adult learners.

WCC’s NSC Six-Year Completion Rate by Enrollment Intensity

Rationale: Disaggregated only by enrollment intensity will give WCC some insight into its six-year completion rate by enrollment intensity.

Table 4. WCC’s NSC Six-Year Completion Rate by Enrollment Intensity

Enrollment Intensity	Total Enrolled (#)	Total Completion Rate (%)	Still Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)	Not Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)
Overall	392	61.24	6.09	32.66
Exclusively Full-Time	176	88.07	0.00	11.93
Exclusively Part-Time	22	22.73	9.09	68.18
Mixed Enrollment	194	41.26	11.29	47.45

Source: National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker Postsecondary Completions Reports

Note: Completion outcomes include the first degree or certificate completion. The Mixed enrollment group includes part-time and full-time students during the study period.

Evaluation of Data: The fall 2016 entering cohort had 392 students. The intensity consists of exclusively full-time enrollment (45%, n = 176), exclusively part-time enrollment (6%, n = 22), and mixed enrollment (49%, n = 194).

Exclusively Full-Time Enrollment

Exclusively, full-time enrollment intensity’s six-year completion rate was 88.07% (n = 155), with a stop-out rate of 11.93% (n = 21). **The exclusively full-time students had the highest six-year completion rate of all enrollment intensities for the fall 2016 entering cohort.**

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Exclusively Part-Time Enrollment

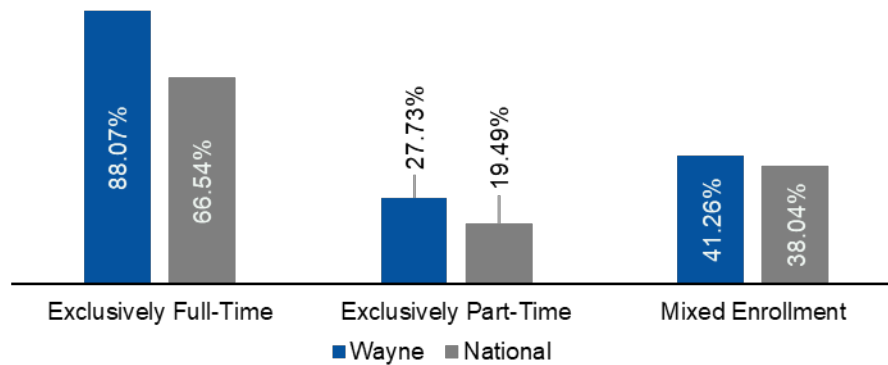
The six-year completion rate for exclusively part-time enrollment intensity was 22.73% (n = 5), with a stop-out rate of 68.18% (n = 15). 9.09% (n = 2) of exclusively part-time students remained enrolled after the six-year timeframe.

Mixed Enrollment

The six-year completion rate of mixed enrollment intensity was 41.26% (n = 80), with a stop-out rate of 47.45% (n = 92). After the six-year timeframe, 11.29% (n = 22) of students remained enrolled.

National Public Two-Year Institutions Benchmark: WCC's exclusively full-time students' six-year completion rate (88.07%) was higher than the national public two-year institutions' exclusively full-time students (66.54%) by 21.53%. WCC's exclusively part-time students' six-year completion rate (22.73%) was higher than the national public two-year institutions' exclusively part-time students (19.49%) by 3.24%. WCC's mixed enrollment students' six-year completion rate (41.26%) was higher than the national public two-year institutions' mixed enrollment students (38.04%) by 3.22%.

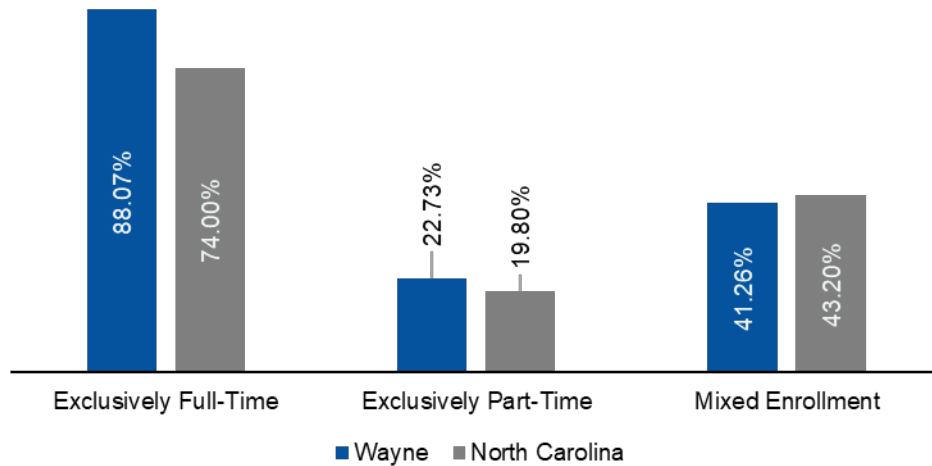
Figure 5. NSC Six-Year Completion Rates by Enrollment Intensity – WCC vs. National Public Two-Year Institutions



Source: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark Report

North Carolina Public Two-Year Institutions Benchmark: WCC's exclusively full-time students' six-year completion rate (88.07%) was higher than the North Carolina public two-year institutions' exclusively full-time students (74.00%) by 14.07%. WCC's exclusively part-time students' six-year completion rate (22.73%) was higher than the North Carolina public two-year institutions' exclusively part-time students (19.80%) by 2.93%. WCC's mixed enrollment students' six-year completion rate (41.26%) was lower than the national public two-year institutions' mixed enrollment students (43.20%) by 1.94%.

Figure 6. NSC Six-Year Completion Rates by Enrollment Intensity – WCC vs. North Carolina Public Two-Year Institutions



Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark Report and NSC Research Center – Completion College National and State Reports with Six- and Eight-Year Completion Rates Dashboards

Strategies for Improvement: After creating WCC’s homegrown stop-out initiative, WCC joined the fourth cohort of the John M. Belk Endowment’s NC Reconnect project. The project focuses on engaging adult learners and improving student retention. WCC participated in this project to help market to and retain adult learners to help WCC improve student retention among adult learners.

WCC’s NSC Six-Year Completion Rate by Gender

Rationale: Disaggregating only by gender will give WCC some insight into its six-year completion rate by gender.

Table 5. WCC’s NSC Six-Year Completion Rate by Gender

Gender	Total Enrolled (#)	Total Completion Rate (%)	Still Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)	Not Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)
Overall	392	61.24	6.09	32.66
Female	191	64.92	5.24	29.84
Male	166	59.08	8.37	32.55

Source: National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker Postsecondary Completions Reports

Note: Students with missing gender data were excluded from the table.

Evaluation of Data: The fall 2016 entering cohort had 392 students, 191 (n = 49%) female and 166 (n = 42%) male students. Of the 392 students, 35 (9%) were excluded from the table because the gender data in the WCC’s NSC enrollment data were missing.

Female Population

The female population’s six-year completion rate was 64.92% (n = 124), with a stop-out rate of 29.84% (n = 57). After the six-year timeframe, 5.24% (n = 10) of the female population remained enrolled. **The female population had the highest six-year completion rate out of all the gender populations for the fall 2016 entering cohort.**

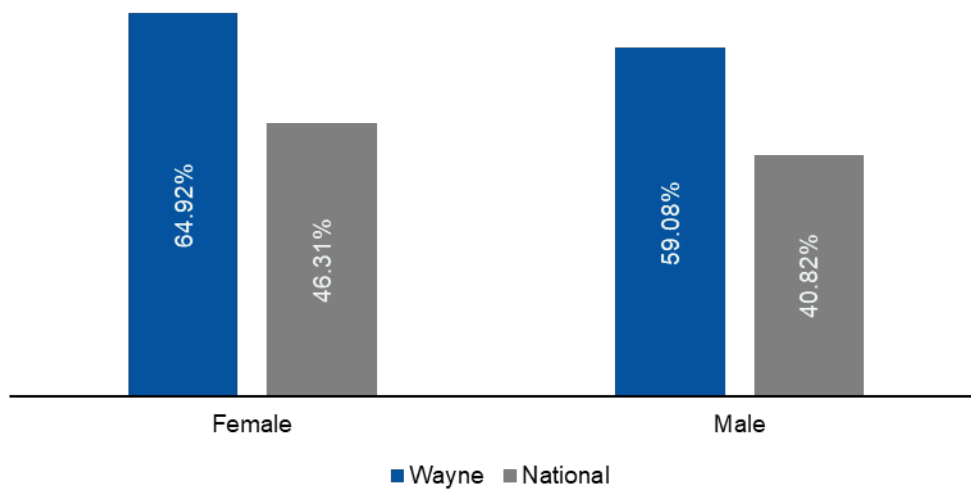
Male Population

The male population’s six-year completion rate was 59.08% (n = 98), with a stop-out rate of 32.55% (n = 54). After the six-year timeframe, 8.37% (n = 14) of male students remained enrolled.

In the fall 2021 semester, the Office of Admissions & Records started submitting gender information (LSE.GENDER) on the NSC Enrollment report throughout the year.

National Public Two-Year Institutions Benchmark: WCC's female population's six-year completion rate (64.92%) was higher than the national public two-year institutions' female population (46.31%) by 18.61%. WCC's male population's six-year completion rate (59.08%) was higher than the national public two-year institutions' male population (40.82%) by 18.26%.

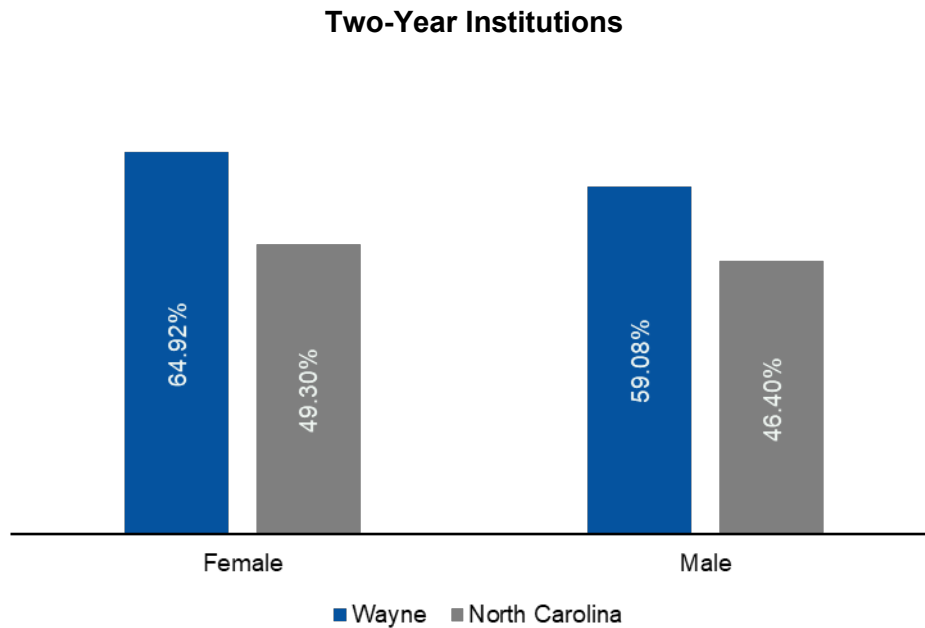
Figure 7. NSC Six-Year Completion Rates by Gender – WCC vs. National Public Two-Year Institutions



Source: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark Report

North Carolina Public Two-Year Institutions Benchmark: WCC's female six-year completion rate (64.92%) was 15.62% higher than the North Carolina public two-year institutions' female population (49.30%). WCC's male six-year completion rate (59.08%) was 12.68% higher than the North Carolina public two-year institutions' male population (46.40%).

Figure 8. NSC Six-Year Completion Rates by Gender – WCC vs. North Carolina Public



Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark Report and NSC Research Center – Completion College National and State Reports with Six- and Eight-Year Completion Rates Dashboards

Strategies for Improvement: After creating WCC’s homegrown stop-out initiative, WCC joined the fourth cohort of the John M. Belk Endowment’s NC Reconnect project. The project focuses on engaging adult learners and improving student retention. WCC participated in this project to help market to and retain adult learners to help WCC improve student retention among adult learners.

WCC’s NSC Six-Year Completion Rate by Race/Ethnicity

Rationale: Disaggregating only by race/ethnicity will give WCC some insight into its six-year completion rate by race/ethnicity.

Table 6. WCC’s NSC Six-Year Completion Rate by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Total Enrolled (#)	Total Completion Rate (%)	Still Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)	Not Enrolled (At Any Institution) (%)
Overall	392	61.24	6.09	32.66
African American	71	30.99	12.68	56.34
Asian	8	87.50	0.00	12.50
Caucasian	220	68.64	4.09	27.27
Hispanic	78	64.21	4.97	30.82
Other	2	100.00	0.00	0.00
Two or More Races	7	85.71	0.00	14.29
Race/Ethnicity Unknown or Missing	6	33.33	33.33	33.33

Source: National Student Clearinghouse StudentTracker Postsecondary Completions Reports

Note: The Other Races category includes Non-Resident Aliens, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Pacific Islanders, and Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders.

Evaluation of Data: The fall 2016 entering cohort had 392 students. The following breakdown of the race/ethnicity categories are the African American population (18%, n = 71), the Asian population (2%, n = 8), the Caucasian population (56%, n = 220), the Hispanic population (19%, n = 78), the Other population (1%, n = 2), the Two or More Races (2%, n = 7), and the Race/Ethnicity Unknown or Missing population (2%, n = 6).

African American Population

The African American population’s six-year completion rate was 30.99% (n = 22), with a stop-out rate of 56.34% (n = 40). After the six-year timeframe, 12.68% (n = 9) of students remained enrolled.

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Asian Population

The Asian population's six-year completion rate was 87.50% (n = 7), with a stop-out rate of 12.50% (n = 1).

Caucasian Population

The Caucasian population's six-year completion rate was 68.64% (n = 151), with a stop-out rate of 27.27% (n = 60). After the six-year timeframe, 4.09% (n = 9) of students remained enrolled.

Hispanic Population

The Hispanic population's six-year completion rate was 64.21% (n = 50), with a stop-out rate of 30.82% (n = 24). After the six-year timeframe, 4.97% (n = 4) of students remained.

Other Population

The Other population's six-year completion rate was 100.00% (n = 2). **The Other population had the highest six-year rate out of all race/ethnicity populations for the fall 2016 entering cohort.**

Two or More Races Population

The Two or More Races population's six-year completion rate was 85.71% (n = 6), with a stop-out rate of 14.29% (n = 1).

Race/Ethnicity Unknown or Missing Population

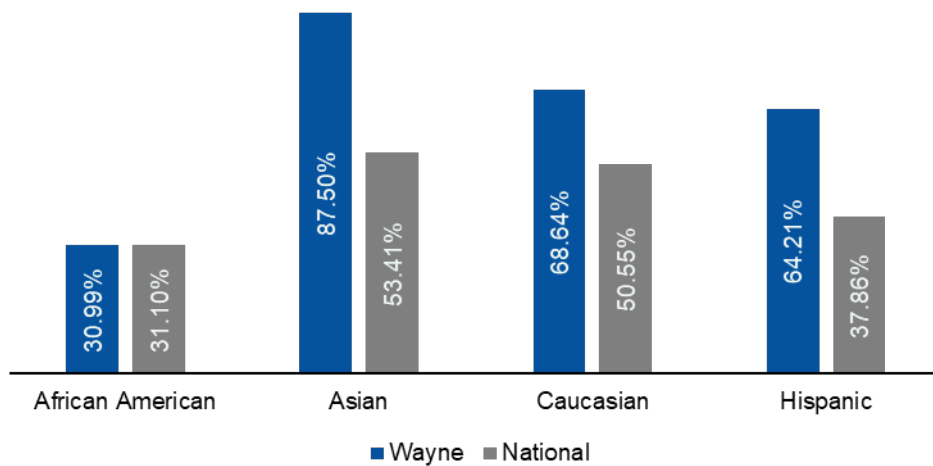
The Race/Ethnicity Unknown or Missing population's six-year completion rate was 33.33% (n = 2), with a stop-out rate of 33.33% (n = 2). After the six-year timeframe, 33.33% (n = 2) of students remained enrolled.

In the fall 2021 semester, the Office of Admissions & Records started submitting race/ethnicity information (LSE.ETHNICITY) on the NSC Enrollment report throughout the year.

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National Public Two-Year Institutions Benchmark: WCC’s African American population’s six-year completion rate (30.99%) was lower than the national public two-year institutions’ African American population’s six-year completion rate (31.10%) by 0.11%. WCC’s Asian population’s six-year completion rate (87.50%) was higher than the national public two-year institutions’ Asian population’s six-year completion rate (53.41%) by 34.09%. WCC’s Caucasian population’s six-year completion rate (68.64%) was higher than the national public two-year institutions’ Caucasian population’s six-year completion rate (50.55%) by 18.09%. WCC’s Hispanic population’s six-year completion rate (64.21%) was higher than the national public two-year institutions’ Hispanic population’s six-year completion rate (37.86%) by 26.35%.

Figure 9. NSC Six-Year Completion Rates by Race/Ethnicity – WCC vs. National Public Two-Year Institutions



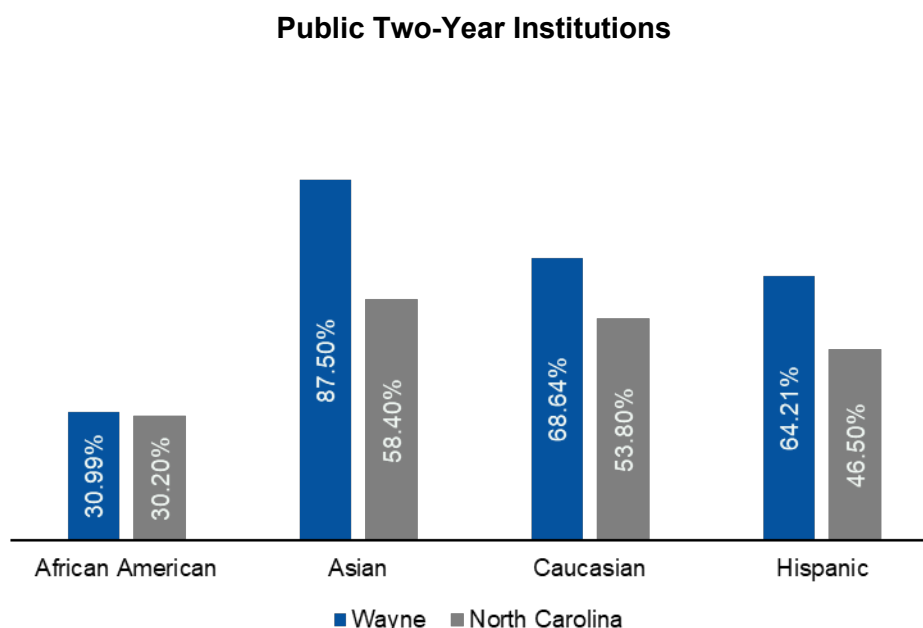
Source: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark Report

North Carolina Public Two-Year Institutions Benchmark: WCC’s African American population’s six-year completion rate (30.99%) was higher than the North Carolina public two-year institutions’ African American population’s six-year completion rate (30.20%) by .79%. WCC’s Asian population’s six-year completion rate (87.50%) was higher than the North Carolina

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public two-year institutions' Asian population's six-year completion rate (58.40%) by 29.10%. WCC's Caucasian population's six-year completion rate (68.64%) was higher than the North Carolina public two-year institutions' Caucasian population's six-year completion rate (53.80%) by 14.84%. WCC's Hispanic population's six-year completion rate (64.21%) was higher than North Carolina public two-year institution's Hispanic population's six-year completion rate (46.50%) by 17.71%

Figure 10. NSC Six-Year Completion Rates by Race/Ethnicity – WCC vs. North Carolina



Sources: NSC StudentTracker Postsecondary Completion Institutional Benchmark Report and NSC Research Center – Completion College National and State Reports with Six- and Eight-Year Completion Rates Dashboards

Strategies for Improvement: After creating WCC's homegrown stop-out initiative, WCC joined the fourth cohort of the John M. Belk Endowment's NC Reconnect project. The project focuses on engaging adult learners and improving student retention. WCC participated in this project to help market to and retain adult learners to help WCC improve student retention among adult learners.

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Criterion 2: WCC's Annual Curriculum Headcount

Criterion 2 aligns with WCC's institutional goal is to develop policies and practices that provide increased opportunities for students to enter into, and successfully proceed through, post-secondary education and training programs. In addition, criterion 2 supports the mission of WCC by meeting the educational needs of the communities it serves.

For the criterion, the annual curriculum headcount is an unduplicated count based on the reporting year set by the North Carolina Community College System Office. A student is counted in WCC's annual headcount if he or she is enrolled in at least one curriculum course during the reporting year. WCC's annual curriculum headcount is a lagging indicator of student achievement.

WCC's Annual Curriculum Headcount

Outcome: WCC seeks to increase its annual curriculum headcount for a specific reporting year.

Threshold of Acceptability: 4,425 students

Rationale: The Office of IE examined WCC's annual curriculum headcount for the reporting years of 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018. To get the threshold of acceptability for this criterion, the Office of IE averaged the annual curriculum headcount for these reporting years. The threshold of acceptability is not a moving three-year average. The threshold of acceptability will stay static until the Office of IE reexamines this criterion and approves it through WCC's Planning Council. The static threshold of acceptability aligns with how WCC establishes its KPI baselines, standards, and targets in its 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for Institutional Effectiveness.

Goal: 4,514 students

Rationale: The goal is to increase the WCC's acceptability threshold by 2% for this criterion (4,425 * 2%).

Table 7. WCC’s Annual Curriculum Headcount

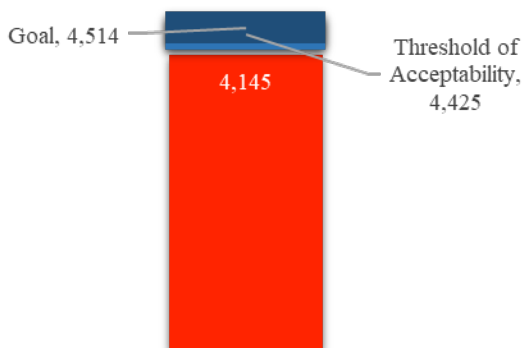
Criterion	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	3-Year Mean	2022-2023
Annual Curriculum Headcount	4,515	4,331	4,429	4,425	4,145

Source: WCC End of Term Semester Data Marts

Note: Reporting Year is Summer Semester, Fall Semester, and Spring Semester.

Figure 11. WCC’s Annual Curriculum Headcount

WCC did not meet the threshold of acceptability by 280 students and the goal by 369 students.



Evaluation of Data: The annual curriculum headcount for the reporting year of 2022-2023 is 4,145 students. For the reporting year of 2022-2023, **WCC did not meet its threshold of acceptability by 280 students and did not meet its goal of 369 students.**

Strategies for Improvement: After creating WCC’s homegrown stop-out initiative, WCC joined the fourth cohort of the John M. Belk Endowment’s NC Reconnect project. The project focuses on engaging adult learners and improving student retention. WCC participated in this project to help market to and retain adult learners to help WCC improve student retention among adult learners.

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Criterion 3: New First-Time Students at Wayne Community College (WCC) Fall-to-Fall Retention

Criterion 3 aligns with two of WCC's institutional goals. The two institutional goals are goal 1 and goal 3. WCC's institutional goal 1 is to develop policies and practices that provide increased opportunities for students to enter into and successfully proceed through post-secondary education and training. WCC's institutional goal 3 is to increase the number of students leaving with a job-ready credential that can lead to successful employment in a global economy and provide better skills, better jobs, better pay, and continued educational attainment. In addition, criterion 3 supports the mission of WCC by meeting the educational needs of the communities it serves.

New first-time students at WCC refers to any student enrolled in WCC for the first time regardless of whether they previously attended another post-secondary college or university. It also refers to any dual enrollment or non-degreed students who enrolled in the fall semester. WCC does not include the previous summer's new first-time students in its fall cohort. The new first-time students at WCC will have a start term of the fall semester in the following field STA.START.TERM in Colleague. The fall-to-fall retention of new first-time students at WCC is a lagging indicator of student achievement.

WCC's New First-Time Students Fall-to-Fall Retention

Outcome: WCC seeks to increase the number of new first-time students at WCC fall-to-fall retention.

Threshold of Acceptability: 53.1%

Rationale: The Office of IE analyzed new first-time WCC students' fall-to-fall retention for the following fall semesters: fall 2015 to fall 2016, fall 2016 to fall 2017, and fall 2017 to fall 2018. To get the acceptable threshold for this criterion, the Office of IE averaged the new first-time

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students at WCC fall-to-fall retention for the following fall semesters: fall 2015 to fall 2016, fall 2016 to fall 2017, and fall 2017 to fall 2018. The threshold of acceptability is not a moving three-year average. The threshold of acceptability will stay static until the Office of IE reexamines this criterion and it is approved through WCC’s Planning Council. The static threshold of acceptability aligns with how WCC establishes its baselines, standards, and targets for the KPIs in its 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for Institutional Effectiveness.

Goal: 54.1%

Rationale: The goal is to increase WCC’s threshold of acceptability by 1% for this criterion (53.1% + 1%).

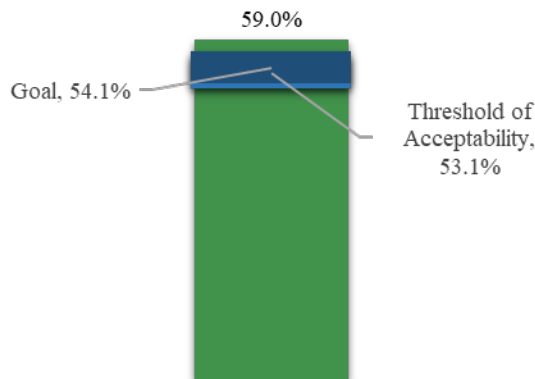
Table 8. New First-Time Students at WCC Fall-to-Fall Retention

Criterion	Fall 2015 to Fall 2016	Fall 2016 to Fall 2017	Fall 2017 to Fall 2018	3-Year Mean	Fall 2022 to Fall 2023
New First-Time at WCC Fall-to-Fall Retention	55.0%	51.8%	52.4%	53.1%	59.0%

Source: WCC End of the Term Semester Data Marts

Figure 12. New First-Time Students at WCC Fall-to-Fall Retention

WCC exceeded the threshold of acceptability by 5.9% and the goal by 4.9%.



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Evaluation of Data: For Fall 2022 to Fall 2023, **WCC exceeded its threshold of acceptability by 5.9% and goal by 4.9%**. For fall 2022, WCC had 952 new first-time students. Five hundred sixty-two new first-time students at WCC returned for the fall 2023 semester. Three hundred ninety new first-time students (41.0%) did not return for the fall 2023 semester.

Strategies for Improvement: After creating WCC's homegrown stop-out initiative, WCC joined the fourth cohort of the John M. Belk Endowment's NC Reconnect project. The project focuses on engaging adult learners and improving student retention. WCC participated in this project to help market to and retain adult learners to help WCC improve student retention among adult learners.

Criterion 4: Annual Curriculum Completers

Criterion 4 aligns with WCC’s institutional goal 3. WCC’s institutional goal 3 is to increase the number of students leaving with a job-ready credential that can lead to successful employment in a global economy and provide better skills, better jobs, better pay, and continued education attainment. In addition, this criterion supports the mission of WCC by meeting the educational and training needs of the communities it serves.

For this criterion, the annual curriculum completers are an unduplicated count of WCC’s graduates based on the graduation year set by the North Carolina Community College System Office. WCC decided to use its institutional data instead of data from the IPEDS Completions survey because of the timeframe required for the IPEDS Completions survey. The IPEDS completions survey timeframe (July – June) will overlap two graduation years that the North Carolina College System Office sets. The annual curriculum completion is a lagging indicator of student achievement.

WCC’s Annual Curriculum Completers

Outcome: WCC seeks to increase its annual completers for a specific graduation year.

Threshold of Acceptability: 855 completers

Rationale: The Office of IE examined WCC’s annual curriculum completers for the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 graduation years. To get the threshold of acceptability of this criterion, the Office of IE averaged the annual curriculum completers for the graduation years of 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018. The threshold of acceptability is not a moving three-year average. The threshold of acceptability will stay static until the Office of IE reexamines this criterion and any change is approved through WCC’s Planning Council. The static threshold of acceptability aligns with how WCC establishes its KPI baselines, standards, and targets in its 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for Institutional Effectiveness.

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Goal: 872 completers

Rationale: For this criterion, the goal is to increase WCC’s completers by 2% annually (855 * 2%).

Table 9. WCC’s Annual Curriculum Completers

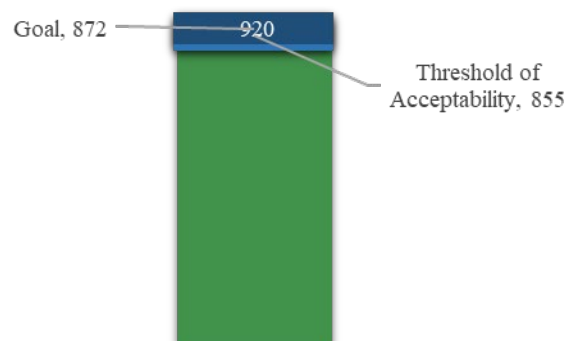
Criterion	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	3-Year Mean	2022-2023
Annual Curriculum Completers	843	821	901	855	920

Source: WCC Graduation Data Marts

Note: Graduation Year is Summer Semester, Fall Semester, and Spring Semester

Figure 13. WCC’s Annual Curriculum Completers

WCC exceeded the threshold of acceptability by 65 completers and the goal by 48 completers.



Evaluation of Data: The annual curriculum completers for the graduation year of 2022-2023 was 920. For the 2022-2023 graduation year, **WCC exceeded its threshold of acceptability by 65 completers and did not meet the goal by 48 completers.**

Strategies for Improvement: After creating WCC’s homegrown stop-out initiative, WCC joined the fourth cohort of the John M. Belk Endowment’s NC Reconnect project. The project focuses

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on engaging adult learners and improving student retention. WCC participated in this project to help market to and retain adult learners to help WCC improve student retention among adult learners.