

ARCC 2009 Report: College Level Indicators Self-Assessment

West Los Angeles College

Los Angeles Community College District

College Self-Assessment / Response

West Los Angeles College recently celebrated its 40th anniversary as one of the nine colleges of the Los Angeles Community College District. The College's location is unique in the nation: it is nearby the LAX airport and at the crossroads of a vibrant international economy. The main campus in Culver City is in the heart of the entertainment industry represented by Sony, Fox and many other media companies.

West's feeder high schools form a service region remarkable for its economic and ethnic diversity. The College's top ten feeder schools are: Hamilton, Culver City, Dorsey, Los Angeles, Venice, Crenshaw, Westchester, University, Inglewood, and Santa Monica. This makes for a rich diversity that is central to a West education: 43% of students are African-American and 30% are Latino.

In 2006, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges reaffirmed West's accreditation for seven years. Among its four major commendations, the Commission cited the College's Accelerated College Transfer Program (ACT) "for its creative and smart use of scheduling that provides students with the optimum chance for achieving an associate degree in two years." ACT is one example of the College's commitment to its mission of university transfer. West ranks among the top five community colleges for African-American transfer students to UC and CSU.

West is a leader in workforce education for the 21st century. West's ARCC indicator for successful course completion rates for vocational courses is 80.2%, among the very highest in its peer group. This excellent performance is due to a skilled and nurturing faculty and a curriculum of unique workforce programs such as aviation technology, entertainment industry trades training, ABA-approved paralegal, ADA-approved dental hygiene, and certified nursing assistant/geriatrics.

West's performance on other ARCC indicators is at or near its peer group averages. In 2007, West completed an Educational Master Plan to guide it through 2011. This plan included the deliberate effort to embrace West's feeder schools and expand student access, regardless of educational achievement. This outreach resulted in a booming enrollment: FTES increased in 2007-08 by 9% over 2006-07. This continuing boom also had the expected effect of increasing the number of entering students who assess at the precollegiate level in English and math: over 80% of the College's entering students do not assess at the freshman level. Despite this large increase in basic skills students our student progress indicators have held steady.

The College sees basic skills as an opportunity for service and has initiated new programs to assist its pre-collegiate students. These programs include improved counseling, tutoring and class scheduling under the umbrella of its Student Success Initiative. We expect indicators in this area to improve in the future.

West is also special for its physically beautiful campus. In 2009 the College will complete the construction of a state-of-the-art science/math building, a classroom building and a student services center. These new facilities, combined with West's innovative programs and responsive community services, will empower West's students to succeed.



Chancellor's Office
California Community Colleges

1102 Q Street Sacramento, California 95811-6511 www.cccco.edu

ARCC website: <http://www.cccco.edu/systemoffice/divisions/techresearchinfo/researchandplanning/arcc/tabid/292/default.aspx>

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