

# ARCC 2011 Report: College Level Indicators Self-Assessment

## West Los Angeles College

Los Angeles Community College District

### College Self-Assessment / Response

West Los Angeles College was founded in 1969 and is 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 bustling international economy. The campus in Culver City is in the heart of the entertainment industry represented by Sony, Fox, Univision, NPR, ABC, 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: 40% of students are African-American and 28% are Latino.

In 2006, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges reaffirmed West's accreditation for six 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, close to the average for its peer group. This good 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 near its peer group averages. This is noteworthy given West's enrollment swings. Following a 23% increase over the prior three years, the most recently-reported annual enrollment figures show substantial reductions (headcount down -15.9% and FTES down -8.1%) necessitated by budget restrictions in place even before the current State crisis began. Efforts to bolster degree completion and transfer are underway: all degree programs are being mapped, with classes scheduled to support these roadmaps, and new transfer agreements are being forged with neighboring four-year universities.

The College sees basic skills as an opportunity for service. Over 80% of the College's entering students do not assess at the freshman level. West 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 2010 the College will complete the construction of a state-of-the-art science/math building. In 2011 a new classroom building and a student services center will open. These new facilities, combined with West's innovative programs will empower West's students to succeed and make a reality of our motto, "Go West. Go Far."



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