

- **Academic Challenge (Community College Survey of Student Engagement Benchmark)**-Challenging intellectual and creative work is central to student learning and collegiate quality. Academic challenge survey items address the nature and amount of assigned academic work, the complexity of cognitive tasks presented to students, and the standards faculty members use to evaluate student performance.
- **Active and Collaborative Learning (Community College Survey of Student Engagement Benchmark)**-Measures the degree to which students are engaged in active and collaborative learning. Active learning is defined as learning through active involvement, having opportunities to think about, and apply what is being learned. Collaborative learning is defined as learning through collaboration with others to solve problems or master challenging content.
- **Award**-The credential granted to a student for successful completion of a set curriculum such as a degree or certificate.
- **CBM001 (Student Report)**-This report includes all students enrolled at the reporting institution in courses (for which semester credit hours or quarter hours are awarded) as of the official census date, which shall be the 12th class day for the fall and spring semesters (16 week sessions) and the 4th day of class for each of the summer terms (6 week sessions).
- **CBM004 (Class Report)**-This report reflects courses offered as of the official census date which is the 12th day of class for the fall and spring semesters (16 week session) and the 4th day of class for each of the summer terms (6 week session). All higher education institutions may schedule enrolment periods different from the standard periods noted. This report includes classes in Coordinating Board approved courses for resident credit.
- **Credit Students**-Students enrolled in a course that can be applied to a degree, diploma, certificate, or other formal award.
- **CCSSE**-Community College Survey of Student Engagement is a survey instrument which provides information on student engagement. The survey is administered to community college students and asks questions that assess institutional practices and student behaviors that are correlated to student learning and retention.
- **Certification/Licensure/Registration**-A process sponsored by an agency or association, and designed by educators in cooperation with business, industry, and/or labor, that validates and/or certifies the skills and learning experiences of a candidate and enters the name of the successful candidate on a registry.
- **Degree**-An award conferred by a postsecondary education institute as official recognition for the successful completion of a program of study.
- **Developmental Education**-Developmental education refers to the range of courses and activities designed to prepare students to complete credit bearing college level courses successfully.
- **Distance Education**-Courses in which the majority of instruction occurs when the students and instructor are not in the same physical setting. A distance education course can be delivered synchronously or asynchronously to any single or multiple locations through electronic modes (e.g., the Internet, video conferencing, television, etc.), by correspondence, or by other means.
- **Fall to Fall Persistence FTIC**-The rate at which FTIC, degree-seeking credit students either persist from the fall term of entry (at census date) to the fall term of the following year (at census date) or earn a degree or certificate before the next fall term.

- **First-Time-in-College Student (FTIC)**-An entering student who has never attended any college. Also includes students who entered with advanced standing (college credits earned before graduation from high school).
- **Fiscal Year**-The period of time beginning September 1 and ending on the following August 31, both dates inclusive which coincides with the State of Texas' fiscal year.
- **Full-Time Faculty**-Tenured, tenure-track, and full-time faculty.
- **Full-Time Student**-Students who are enrolled in 12 or more credit hours of courses in a semester.
- **Gender**-The gender of a student, faculty, or staff member. An 'M' denotes male and 'F' denotes female.
- **Graduation Rate**-This is the percentage of a given college-entering First-Time-in-College cohort of degree-seeking students who graduate in a specific period of time.
- **Major**-A subject-matter area in which a student may specialize by taking a specified number of courses as a part of the requirements for completion of a program of study. It is identified with a six or eight-digit Classification of Instructional Program code of the program in which the award is to be conferred.
- **Personal Assessment of the College Environment (PACE)** – based on a evidence-based model that demonstrates that the leadership of an institution motivates four climate factors-institutional structure, supervisory relationship, teamwork, and student focus-that impact student success and institutional effectiveness.
- **Part-Time Faculty**-Faculty employed less than 100 percent of time, often referred to as adjuncts.
- **Part-Time Student**-Students who are enrolled in fewer than 12 semester credit hours of courses in a given semester.
- **Retention Rate within Term**-The rate at which credit students persist within the same term (excludes fall late flex, includes dual credit).
- **Revenue by Source**-Funds received from tuition, taxes, state appropriations, and other sources.
- **Semester Credit Hours (SCH)**-Semester credit hour is a unit of measure representing an hour (50 minutes) of instruction over the week in a semester.
- **Success Rate (Productive Grade rate)**-The proportion of credit students for a specified term or academic year who obtain grades A, B, or C in that period. The rate is calculated by dividing the number of A, B, and C grades by the number of A, B, C, D, F, IP, I, and W grades.
- **Student Effort (Community College Survey of Student Engagement Benchmark)**-Measures the amount of effort students apply to their studies. Eight survey items measure the extent to which students are applying themselves in the learning process and how often they use student services.
- **Student/Faculty Interaction (Community College Survey of Student Engagement Benchmark)**-Measures the extent to which students and faculty communicate about academic performance, career plans, and course content/assignments. Six survey questions contribute to this benchmark.
- **Support for Learners (Community College Survey of Student Engagement Benchmark)**-Measures students' perceptions about their college and their use of advising and career counseling services. Seven survey items contribute to this benchmark.
- **THECB Accountability System**-Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Accountability System refers to a system used to track performance on critical measures that exemplify higher education institutions' missions. Its major focus is on the four target areas of participation, success, excellence, and research.

- **Transfer**-A student entering an institution for the first time but known to have previously attended a postsecondary institution.
- **Transfer to Senior Institution** – percentage of students in a cohort who transferred to a senior institution within six years. Cohort – number of students entering higher education for the first time at a 2-year institution and not concurrently enrolled at a 4-year institution.

*Data source: Texas Higher Education
Coordinating Board (THECB)
institutionally certified data reports. Most
measures are available in the [THECB
Accountability System](#). District specific
reports are created by District
Institutional Research office. College IR
provide CCSSE and PACE results.*