

ARCC 2007 Report: College Level Indicators Self-Assessment

Coastline Community College

Coast Community College District

College Self-Assessment / Response

Coastline Community College was founded in 1976 with the specific mission of serving adult students through alternative delivery and scheduling formats. In addition to its classroom-based programs, the college has strong departments in distance education and instructional system design. The college has produced more than 60 internationally-distributed, award-winning telecourses and online courses. The DE department offers 127 different courses (primarily online). Coastline's creative scheduling and innovative instructional delivery formats are an excellent match for the educational needs and lifestyles of working adults. Seventy percent of Coastline's students attend part time—taking fewer than 5 units per semester; the academic success of this population cannot be adequately captured through the six year cohort tracking timeframe observed by the architects of the ARCC reporting system.

In addition to predominantly serving working students, Coastline successfully serves the needs of more traditional students who simultaneously attend other colleges. These students find Coastline's wide range of general education distance learning and one-class-meeting-per-week format, site-based classes a viable option for picking up classes to augment their home college schedules. Because these students neither start nor complete their degree work at Coastline, their successful learning experiences at Coastline are not completely reflected in the ARCC data.

Coastline College also is successfully serving a growing number of military students. In 2005-06, Coastline served 9,198 military students. The number of course enrollments (seats) by military program students grew from 4,500 in 1999-00 to 17,544 in 2005-06. When compared to most civilian students, military students progress through our courses and programs at high rates, achieving a 76% rate of successful course completion; this success rate compares very favorably to the statewide distance education course success rate of 55%. Please note that military enrollment data are not included in Coastline's ARCC report. The college is working with the System's Office to correct this for the 2007-08 report. As a result of our military program, we expect our ARCC program completion and transfer rates to reflect a steady increase over the coming years.

Given the type of students served by Coastline, we feel our ARCC rates are understandable, with one exception. The Basic Skills Improvement Rate is an artifact of improperly coded data; we are taking steps to fix this anomaly. In the last six years Coastline has initiated new programs and accelerated existing programs to serve students from a much broader range of circumstances. Redefining the familiar term "nontraditional," these programs include recruitment, instruction, and support tailored to the needs of deployed military personnel, incarcerated students, and high school students. The college is making a conscious effort to attract students who consider Coastline their home college. This effort manifests through new programs including Biotechnology (the only biological laboratory technician training program in Orange County) and Informatics (a collaborative program with UC Irvine offering a new branch of computer science), partnerships with local school districts for programs such as Early College High School, new community-based learning centers, and development of innovative technologies to support the design and delivery of high-quality online courses.



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