

# Executive Summary

## Student Success Core Indicators Results

### Spring 2001

---

#### Core Indicator #1: Goal Attainment

- This Core Indicator has not been implemented on a Campus Wide basis. Goal attainment data has been piloted for the English as Second Language Program, the Fitness Center, Non-degree seeking occupational students (phone survey data) and for EMCC graduates and certificate completers. A campus-wide system to track student success will be implemented during the fall 2001 semester.

#### Core Indicator #2: Successful Course Completion Rate

- Estrella Mountain's overall completion rates (grades A-F) are higher than the District average for the most recent fall term (Fall 2000 – EMCC 82.1% vs. MCCD 80.1%).
- While EMCC students are completing a greater percentage of courses, a comparable but slightly lower percentage of courses are being successfully completed (grades C or better). During the fall 2000 semester, the successful completion rate for all courses was 69.7% compared to 72.6% for all Maricopa Community College courses.
- Estrella Mountain's spring 2000 successful completion rate (C or better) is the second highest it has been in six years. The spring 2000 rate (68.5%) is significantly higher than the spring 1998 rate (65.1%). However, the Maricopa Community College successful completion rate for the spring 1999 semester is still higher at 72.8%.

#### Core Indicator #3: Student Persistence

- Fall to Spring retention rates have increased for half of the cohorts compared to the previous year.

The fall to spring retention rates have increased for the following cohorts:

	Fall 99 to Spring 00	Fall 00 to Spring 01
All New Students	42%	49%
New Part-Time Students	38%	46%
New Degree Seeking	53%	56%

The fall to spring retention rates have increased for the following cohorts:

	Fall 99 to Spring 00	Fall 00 to Spring 01
New Financial Aid Students	69%	65%
Recent High School Grads	72%	65%
New Full-Time Students	77%	73%

- Fall to fall retention rates have rebounded for the fall 1999 to fall 2000 cohort. The majority of the cohorts increased in fall to fall retention over the previous year.

The following fall to fall retention rates have improved:

	Fall 98 to Fall 99	Fall 99 to Fall 00
New Financial Aid Students	41%	43%
Recent High School Grads	50%	58%
New Full-Time Students	45%	49%
New Degree Seeking	30%	32%

The following fall to fall retention rates have declined:

	Fall 98 to Fall 99	Fall 99 to Fall 00
All New Students	27%	25%
New Part-time Students	25%	22%

- When Estrella Mountain student retention is tracked to all Maricopa Colleges (students starting at Estrella Mountain and continuing at any MCCD college), retention rates are similar to District averages.

## **Core Indicator #4 Degree and Program Completion**

- While Estrella Mountain has degree completion rates that are comparable to the District average, the rates appear to be somewhat low. Estrella Mountain's three-year graduation rates range between 14-20% for full-time, degree-seeking students and 1-3% for part-time degree seeking students. These rates are higher than the District average in most cases.
- The five-year graduation rate for full-time, degree seeking students ranges between 20-23%. If Estrella Mountain students are tracked to other Maricopa Community Colleges the rate increases to 24-30%.
- The five-year Estrella Mountain graduation rate for part-time, degree-seeking students is 6%. This graduation rate more than doubles to 16% if graduates are tracked to all Maricopa Colleges.

- Completion rate data is available, but the cohorts are too small to draw meaningful conclusions. Data for this Core Indicator is currently being tracked for new students enrolled in certificate programs. Because many students will decide to pursue a certificate after enrolling in college, the cohort is decreased.

## **Core Indicator #5 Successful Student Transfer**

- The overall number of Estrella Mountain transfer students (new and continuing) attending Arizona State University and U of A (Main, West and East) continues to increase.
- The number of new Estrella Mountain transfer students with 12 or more EMCC transfer hours attending ASU and U of A has also increased every year over the last five years.
- The vast majority 81% of Estrella Mountain transfer graduates who subsequently attend Universities, report that they believe they were prepared well or very well for University Course work.
- Close to 40% of Estrella Mountain transfer students attending ASU have transferred just 1-12 credit hours from EMCC. Of those students who transfer 1-12 EMCC credit hours, approximately 2 out of 3 have more than 12 total transfer hours when Estrella Mountain is combined with other transfer institutions. This may reflect the “swirling” phenomena of students transferring credits from multiple colleges.
- The majority (55-81%) of Estrella Mountain Associate Degree graduates transfer within one year of graduating from Estrella Mountain. The most recent graduate follow-up data indicate that approximately 57% continue of Associate Degree Graduates enroll in a four-year institution with one year of graduation. This most recent figure is lower than previous highs.
- EMCC students who have transferred at least 12 EMCC credit hours have similar GPA's compared to the general population of ASU students. In 1998-1999, the overall GPA of Estrella Mountain transfer students is similar to the GPA in most ASU colleges. There were just two ASU colleges that Estrella Mountain students performed more than a quarter of one grade point lower than the general ASU population. These colleges are the Architectural Design (ASU Main Campus) and the Education College (ASU Main Campus only). It should be noted that only a few Estrella Mountain transfer students are enrolled in the ASU College of Architectural Design, so poor performance by just one student impacts the overall GPA for this cohort.
- In 1998-1999 the overall GPA of Estrella Mountain transfer students (12+ transfer hours) increased in approximately 2 out of 3 ASU colleges.
- Limited data on transfer to institutions other than ASU and UofA are available.

## **Core Indicator #6: Scholastic Achievement**

- During the 1999-2000 academic year, more than half (57%) of Estrella Mountain graduates completed a degree with Honors Distinction (G.P.A. 3.5 or better). This compares to 38% across the MCCD District. The rate is also historically higher than the district average.
- While having a higher percentage of students graduating with honors may be strength, it may also signal an area of concern. Given that Estrella Mountain's successful completion rates (C or Better) are somewhat lower than the District average, it may indicate that intellectually gifted students are making it to graduation, while many average students are dropping through the cracks.