

WILLIAMSBURG TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Institutional Effectiveness Report

July 2002

Introduction:

As required by the South Carolina General Assembly and the South Carolina commission on Higher Education's Institutional Effectiveness Program, Section 101-350 (formally known as ACT 255), and the requirements of section 59-103-30 through 45 (formally known as ACT 359), Williamsburg Technical College submits reports on the following components according to a staggered matrix as developed by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education: General Education, Majors or Concentrations, Professional Examinations, Library Resources and Services, and Transfer Success Tables.

1. General Education

The assessment of General Education at Williamsburg Technical College was last reported in the year 2001 with some major revision that improved the intent of assessment and general education skills enrolled in developmental courses at the college. From fall, 2001 to summer, 2002, there has been a 42% achieving expected outcomes (See attached table) to be able to enroll in transferable courses. This shows a marked improvement from previous years.

This just covers the developmental area of general education for students to be enrolled into the desired transferable courses. The data indicates that students that successfully complete these do succeed in higher-level math and English courses. Also included here in the reading abilities show marked improvement.

2. Majors or Concentrations

Williamsburg Technical College assesses specific majors on a five-year cycle through the Program Evaluation process. The following programs were reviewed during 2001-2002; General College Studies, Pre-Nursing, and Human Services. The effectiveness of programs is assessed by program review, surveys of students, graduates, and employers, and advisory committee recommendations. Examples of factors examined included enrollment, retention, placement, number of graduates, and student satisfaction.

General College Studies

The General College Studies is designed to prepare students for transfer to complete the four-year B.S. or B.A. degree in Education. Williamsburg Technical College has developed this in cooperation with Francis Marion University. In the past three year (2000, 2001, 2002) there has only been an average of three graduates completing this program. All are presently still in school. What we have found through the various surveys used to evaluate this and all programs, was that many may start in General Studies but switch to either Associate of Science or Associate of Arts programs. They continually rated the General College Studies program highly, but felt the AS/AA programs suited them best.

Pre-Nursing

Williamsburg Technical College offers a certificate in Pre-Nursing designed to prepare students for transfer to complete the associate degree in Nursing. The shortage of nurses in our service area prompted the development of this program with the support and cooperation of other colleges in our region. The certificate offered at Williamsburg, provides basic courses, which may be, transferred to complete degree requirements.

From survey responses of students in the Pre-Nursing program covering an eight-semester time frame (1998-2001) 97 percent strongly to agree responses that Williamsburg Technical College Pre-Nursing program prepared them for associate degrees in this field. From the number of responses, between 30-40 of these students will not graduate with a Pre-Nursing certificate from Williamsburg Technical College. Students who received a certificate in this program (years 1999 through 2002) showed a placement rate of 75 percent (either getting jobs or continuing their education).

Advisors of the program believe that the low number of graduates in the program is due to two factors. One: many students in the program change their programs before completing the program. The AS program contains the same course requirements as the certificate program. In addition, the AS program is more flexible. Two: The Pre-Nursing program required students to complete a College Algebra course. Many students fall below the required scores here. Based on responses from Pre-Nursing students that transfer before completion, students which to have more consistent course flow. Therefore, they transfer to a program that has the associate degree offering.

In tracking the students from Pre-Nursing programs transferring to Francis Marion

University and have at least 15 credit hours after 1997, their aggregate GPA was 2.87; thus demonstrating that our students can compete in a competitive college environment.

Human Services

Williamsburg Technical College offers a certificate in Human Services. Upon completing this program students will be qualified to entry-level work in a variety of fields requiring a basic understanding of the causes, nature and consequences of human behavior. Career opportunities exist in youth services, retardation facilities, substance-abuse programs and mental health units.

During the reported assessment of program evaluation (years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002) there were a total 13 graduates which 8 were placed (62 per cent). Surveys over that same time period indicate that students in the Human Services program, 85 percent indicated strong to very strong satisfaction with the program in terms of courses offered and faculty evaluation.

One change that was used to evaluate student improvement in critical thinking skills was to present exam questions in course work that covered this area. It was found that 93 per cent of the Human Services students scored 12 out of 15 or better when the answer to essay questions dealt with critical thinking.

3. Academic Advising

Academic Advising was reported on in the 2001 Report.

4. Two to Four Year Transfers

First time fall transfers of Williamsburg Technical College students for the fall of 2001 is the first actual count that can be evaluated. Up until this time frame, the numbers of transfers were very scattered and poorly reported from the four-year schools. One exception is those students in our AA/AS, Pre-Nursing, and General College Studies were tracked transferring to Francis Marion University. What was found that those students who earned at least 15 credit hours at Williamsburg Technical College (after 1997) had an aggregate GPA of 2.87. This demonstrates that those students can compete at the four levels.

The First-Time Fall, 2001 numbers for all technical colleges (which is attached) shows that Williamsburg Technical College had a 56.5% acceptance to four-year colleges who enrolled. More telling in this table is the acceptance rate of those that were accepted. The percentage here is 92% acceptance by four-year institutes.

5. Library Resources and Services

Williamsburg Technical College reported in this area in the year 2001. Since last year we have gone through a SACS visit and one suggestion was for the library to administer on a regular basis a survey covering services. The results from the first survey are worth going over. One area that was evaluated was Helpfulness of Staff. 92.7% of the responses reported good to excellent the helpfulness of the staff. In terms of resources and services

being adequate in fulfilling student needs, 74.9% agreed to strongly agree that the library filled those needs. Overall satisfaction for the library was 99.9% rating satisfaction good to excellent. This does not differ from the past surveys which are covered by last year's report from Student Opinion Surveys and Student-Faculty Surveys over the last 4 years.