



## Focused Report

2.7.3	3.4.4	3.13.1
3.2.1	3.4.8	3.13.2
3.2.3	3.4.11	3.13.3
3.2.13	3.5.1	3.13.4a
3.3.1.1	3.7.1	3.13.4b
3.3.1.2	3.7.2	3.13.5a
3.3.1.3	3.9.2	4.1
3.3.1.4	3.10.1	4.6

**Submitted to the Commission on Colleges,  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
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## 4.1

### **Student achievement**

*The institution evaluates success with respect to student achievement consistent with its mission. Criteria may include: enrollment data; retention, graduation, course completion, and job placement rates; state licensing examinations, student portfolios; or other means of demonstrating achievement of goals. (Student achievement)*

### **Non-Compliance**

The institution evaluates success with respect to student achievement. Measurements of course completion include grade distribution in individual courses, degrees and certificates awarded, distance education completion rates, and completion rates of learning support courses. The institution also evaluates results on external measures such as the CAAP test and ETS Major Field Test in Business.

Licensure exams are another measure of student success. Graduates in the School of Education take the GACE exam for teacher licensure and recent results show that the institution's pass rate is 18 points higher than the state average. NCLEX-RN pass rates are in line with the state average. Scores on the Radiologic Technology exam place the institution in the top 5% of programs in the country. Scores on the Respiratory Therapy and the Medical Laboratory Technology exams are at a 100% pass rate far above the national rates in the 70's. Additionally the scores on the NCLEX-LPN are at a 100% pass rate.

The institution further evaluates success with Graduating Senior, Alumni, and Employer surveys, enrollment data, job placement rates, exit interviews, transfer reports and retention and graduation rates.

**However, the institution did not provide criteria and thresholds for achievement for each criterion. For example, although NCLEX – LPN is at a 100% pass rate, the institution did not indicate what level of achievement was considered successful (i.e. is 70% pass ok, 90% or is 100% required for the institution to consider “success”?) Likewise there is no indication of what level of achievement was considered the success threshold for retention and graduation rates, job placement, and course completion.**

## Dalton State College's Response

In order to address the off-site committee's concerns regarding benchmarks for student achievement, the following tables list the College's criteria and thresholds for student achievement.

### Exit Exam Pass Rate Benchmarks/Targets

**Table 4.1-1:** Exit Exam Benchmarks

School/Department/Program	Examination	Established Benchmark
Business	ETS Major Field Test in Business	Seventy percent of students will score in the 75 <sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on the ETS [1].
Education	Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE)	Eighty percent (80%) or more of the candidates will receive a passing score on the Georgia State Licensure Exam (GACE Content) in their appropriate fields within one year of program completion [2].
2-Year RN	NCLEX - RN	Students will pass on the first try at or above the national average [3].
Radiologic Technology	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (AART) Examination	Eighty percent of students will pass [4].
Respiratory Therapy	Certified Respiratory Therapists (CRT) Examination	Eighty percent of students will pass [5].
Medical Laboratory Technology	American Medical Technologists (AMT) Examination	Eighty percent of students will pass [6].
LPN	NCLEX-LPN	Students will pass on the first try at or above the national average [7].
General Education	CAAP	Students will perform equal to or above the national average [8].

**Retention and Graduation Rate Benchmarks/Targets**

As shown in Dalton State's [2011 Retention, Progression and Graduation Annual Report](#), Dalton State set benchmarks/targets for its retention and graduation rates which are detailed in the table below:

**Table 4.1-2:** USG Retention and Graduation Rate Targets

<b>DALTON STATE COLLEGE</b>						
<b>USG Retention and Graduation Rate Targets (Revised December 2011)</b>						
<b>First-Time, Full-Time Degree-Seeking Freshmen</b>						
<b>Retention Rate Targets</b>						
<b>Cohort and Rate</b>	<b>Fall Cohort</b>					
	<b>*2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Institution-Specific</b>	59.1	60.6	62.1	63.6	65.1	66.6
<b>System-Wide</b>	61.3	63.0	64.7	66.4	68.1	69.8
*Actual retention rate.						
<b>Six-Year Bachelor's Graduation Rate Targets</b>						
<b>Cohort and Rate</b>	<b>Fall Cohort</b>					
	<b>*2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Institution-Specific</b>	16.4	17.5	18.5	19.5	20.5	21.5
<b>System-Wide</b>	23.6	24.6	25.6	26.6	27.6	28.6
*Actual graduation rate.						
<b>Three-Year Associate Graduation Rate Targets</b>						
<b>Cohort and Rate</b>	<b>Fall Cohort</b>					
	<b>*2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Institution-Specific Graduation Rates</b>	8.0	9.0	10.0	11.0	12.0	13.0
<b>System-Wide</b>	8.2	10.0	11.0	12.0	13.0	14.0

**Job Placement Rate Benchmarks/Targets****Table 4.1-3: Job Placement Rate Targets**

<b>School/Department/Program</b>	<b>Established Benchmark for Job Placement Rates</b>
<b>School of Business</b>	
Accounting	Seventy-five percent (75%) or more of graduates will be employed within six months [9].
Management	Seventy-five percent (75%) or more of graduates will be employed within six months [9].
Management Information Systems	Seventy-five percent (75%) or more of graduates will be employed within six months [9].
Marketing	Seventy percent (70%) or more of graduates will be employed within six months [9].
Operations Management	Eighty percent (80%) or more of graduates will be employed within six months [9].
Technology Management	Eighty percent (80%) or more of graduates will be employed within six months [9].
<b>School of Education</b>	Seventy percent (70%) or more of the candidates completing the programs and receiving state certification will be employed in their profession within 12 months of program completion [2].
<b>School of Liberal Arts</b>	
Criminal Justice	In their responses on the Criminal Justice Program Exit Survey, at least 70% of the students will report that they have found a position related to their degree or that they have gained acceptance into a graduate or professional program [10].
English	In their responses on the English Program Exit Survey, at least 70% of the students will report that they have found a position related to their degree or that they have gained acceptance into a graduate or professional program [10].

History	In their responses on the History Program Exit Survey, at least 70% of the students will report that they have found a position related to their degree or that they have gained acceptance into a graduate or professional program [10].
<b>School of Nursing</b>	
2-Year RN Program	Within three months of passing the NCLEX-RN, 75% of Dalton State College graduates will be employed as staff nurses in hospitals and similar agencies [3].
<b>School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics</b>	
Biology	Eighty percent (80%) of graduates will be employed or enrolled in graduate or professional schools within twelve months of graduation [11].
Chemistry	Eighty percent (80%) of graduates will be employed or enrolled in graduate or professional schools within twelve months of graduation [11].
Mathematics	Eighty percent (80%) of graduates will be employed or enrolled in graduate or professional schools within twelve months of graduation [11].
<b>School of Social Work</b>	
Social Work	Ninety percent (90%) or more of graduates will be either employed as a professional social worker and/or enrolled in a Master of Social Work (MSW) program within three years after receiving their BSW degree [12].
<b>School of Technology</b>	
Licensed Practical Nursing	Within three months of passing the NCLEX-PN, 75% OF Dalton State College graduates will be employed as staff nurses in hospitals and similar agencies [7].
Medical Lab. Tech.	Within twelve months of graduation, 85% of students will be employed [6].
Radiologic Tech.	Within six months of graduation, 75% of students will be employed [4].
Respiratory Tech.	Within twelve months of graduation, 70% of students will be employed [5].

### **Course Completion Benchmarks/Targets**

As noted in the College's [Grade Distribution by Course Report](#), Dalton State's course completion benchmarks for courses with 10 or more students are that fewer than 25% of students will withdraw, fewer than 25% students will receive a grade of D, F, I, or U, and fewer than 33% students will receive grades of D, F, I, U, W, WF, or WU.

### **Documentation**

- [1] School of Business AOL Faculty Guide Fall 2011
- [2] School of Education Program Outcomes
- [3] School of Nursing Handbook, 2011
- [4] Radiologic Technology Handbook
- [5] Respiratory Therapy Student Handbook 2012
- [6] MLTS Handbook Spring 2012
- [7] LPN Handbook 2011-2012
- [8] 2010-2011 Liberal Arts Annual Report (Use of Assessment Results, General Education)
- [9] School of Business Faculty Minutes, March 15, 2012 - Job Placement Benchmarks
- [10] Liberal Arts (Criminal Justice, English, History) Benchmarks
- [11] School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Job Placement Benchmarks
- [12] 2011 Social Work Program Outcomes