

### Quality Education Goal

Educational excellence will be supported through assessment of learning and practicing continuous improvement and innovation in all that we do.

#### Key Measures:

- Licensure and certification exam pass rates
- Student academic performance after transfer
- Assessment based changes for improvement

While grades reflect the extent to which students have met the learning outcomes of a course, measures beyond the classroom experience provide an external validation the college delivers a quality education.

### Licensure and Certification Results

One indicator that PCC students receive a quality education is their performance on state and national certification and licensure exams. This measure is one of the Oregon Legislature's Key Performance Measures for community colleges and is a measure in the Oregon Education Investment Board's Community College Achievement Compact.

**PCC students consistently have high pass rates on certification and licensure exams.** Of the 737 certification or license tests that were administered in 2011-12, PCC prepared students received a passing score 94% of the time.

Certification/Licensure Pass Rates (2011-12)		
Occupational Area	Test Attempts	Pass Rate
Aviation Maintenance/Technology <i>(General, Airframe, Powerplant Test Results Combined)</i>	47	100%
Certified Medical Assistants	30	97%
Dental Assistants <i>(All DANB Test Results Combined)</i>	71	86%
Dental Hygiene <i>(ADA and Both WREB Test Results Combined)</i>	81	100%
Health Information Management	7	86%
Emergency Medical Tech <i>(Basic and Paramedic Test Results Combined)</i>	232	94%
CPR/First Aid <i>(For Professional Rescuers and Various HealthCare Providers)</i>	142	90%
Medical Lab Tech <i>(All ASCP/NCA Content Areas Merged into Single Pass Rate)</i>	19	100%
Nursing <i>(All NCLEX_RN Content Areas Merged into Single Pass Rate)</i>	33	96%
Ophthalmic Medical Tech	16	100%
Radiography	30	100%
Welding	29	97%

## **Student Transfer Academic Success**

Another indicator that PCC students have received a quality education is their academic performance after transfer to another institution. **PCC students who transfer to the Oregon University System tied for the second highest grade point average** (gpa = 3.12) among transfer students from all Oregon community colleges (gpa range for community colleges = 2.79 to 3.15).

PCC transfer grade point averages exceed the average grade point average for other community college transfers in Arts and Sciences (3.28 vs 3.19) and Social Sciences (3.1 vs 3.01) and is similar in English Composition (3.23 vs 3.2) and Science (2.78 vs 2.79). PCC students lag behind other transfers in Foreign Languages (3.06 vs 3.2) and Math (2.59 vs 2.66).

## **Assessment Based Changes for Improvement**

Annual Assessment Reports submitted by each discipline every June have been instrumental to the evolution of the institution-wide understanding of and systematic participation in assessment and the use of results for continuous improvement.

The following examples represent a cross section of the types of changes implemented to improve student learning.

- History implemented new instructional approaches (i.e. development of an online writing guide, class discussions of common writing errors, etc.) when assessment results indicated student writing syntax and organization needed improvement.
- After learning that students were more likely to fail certain tests on their first attempt, Aviation Science began piloting an online test preparation software to give students additional opportunities to prepare for FAA knowledge tests.
- Medical Assisting added a new course to address student weaknesses in electronic medical records knowledge previously identified from National Certification Exam results.
- Paralegal implemented a formal assessment of student computer skills to provide students with direction on which skills need further development when research indicated students needed higher skill levels in order to achieve career goals.
- After a slight dip in dentistry scores, Veterinary Technology updated and restructured their dentistry curriculum. (Subsequent scores improved and remain at above the national average.)

Learning assessment reports for each discipline are located at <http://www.pcc.edu/resources/academic/Assessmentintropage.html>

Transfer performance data is provided by the Oregon University System, Office of Institutional Research. It compares Oregon Community College transfer students at OUS in 2011-12 to other transfer and continuing OUS students.

[https://www.pcc.edu/ir/studentoutcomes/transfer/OUS\\_GPA\\_report\\_1011\\_1112.pdf](https://www.pcc.edu/ir/studentoutcomes/transfer/OUS_GPA_report_1011_1112.pdf)