

Student Achievement

Northwest Shoals Community College (NWSCC) identifies and evaluates goals and outcomes for student achievement using a variety of measures. Criteria for evaluating success include course success rates, retention rates, program completions, graduation rates, job placement rates for career technical students, and licensure passing rates for students in career technical programs that require licensure.

Course Success

NWSCC measures course success in three ways. A grade report is run at the end of each semester, and the course success rate for all courses is calculated. Students who achieve a final grade of C or better are counted as successful for the course; therefore, the threshold of acceptability is 70% or higher. The College also calculates a departmental course success report each semester from the grade report. This report is aggregated by department, course, and instructor and is distributed to the department heads after each semester. From this data, NWSCC compiles a course success report for the top fifteen (15) enrollment courses, with the goal that each of those courses reaches a 70% success rate. Currently, thirteen of the fifteen top enrollment courses have achieved 70% success and two are above 53% success.

Overall Success Rates					
2017-18 through 2021-22					
Fall 2017	77.7%	Spring 2018	76.5%	Summer 2018	82.7%
Fall 2018	75.2%	Spring 2019	75.8%	Summer 2019	83.5%
Fall 2019	75.2%	Spring 2020	80.0%	Summer 2020	85.4%
Fall 2020	73.9%	Spring 2021	78.5%	Summer 2021	83.7%
Fall 2021	78.7%	Spring 2022	81.7%	Summer 2022	84.0%

Top Enrollment Courses Comparisons

		SUCCESS RATE		
COURSE		Fall/Spring 2020-21	Fall/Spring 2021-22	Increase/ Decrease
1	ENG101	71.62%	82.71%	11.09%
2	ART100	77.40%	70.48%	-6.92%
3	HIS201	83.21%	83.37%	0.16%
4	ENG102	70.42%	76.39%	5.97%
5	MTH100	59.34%	54.47%	-4.87%
6	PSY200	69.79%	72.47%	2.68%
7	SPH107	73.70%	76.11%	2.41%
8	MTH112	70.07%	74.49%	4.42%
9	BIO201	49.88%	53.55%	3.67%
10	HIS202	88.04%	91.06%	3.02%
11	PSY210	70.55%	70.93%	0.38%
12	CIS146	58.82%	71.78%	12.96%
13	MUS101	73.64%	74.49%	0.85%
14	PHS111	78.60%	73.53%	-5.07%
15	BIO103	67.22%	85.88%	18.66%

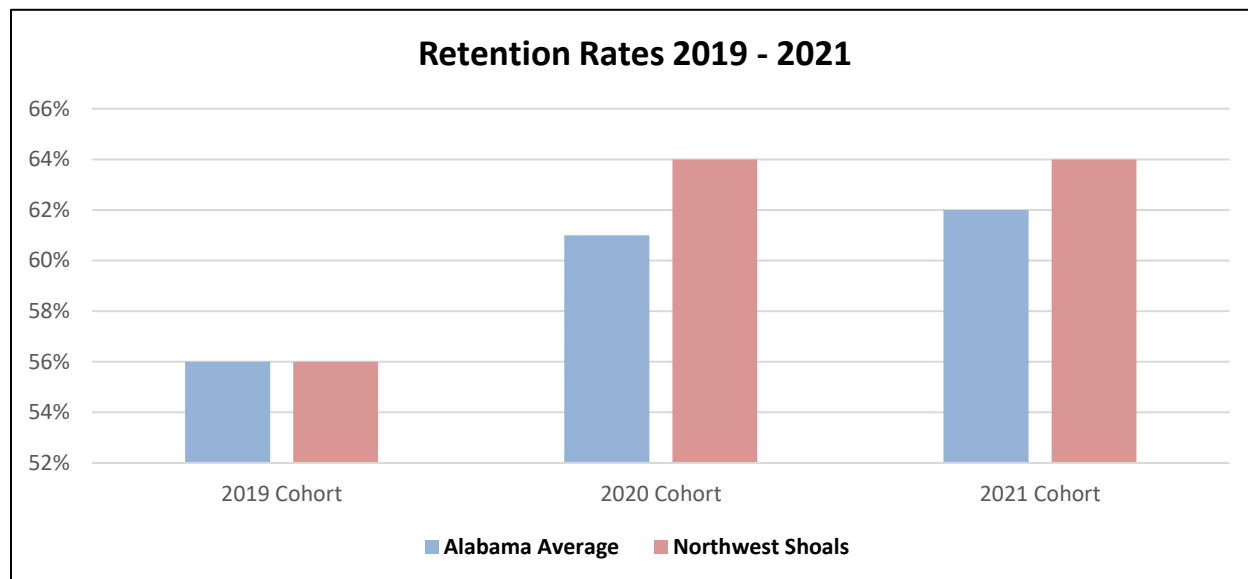
Developmental Education Comparisons

		SUCCESS RATE		
COURSE		Fall/Spring 2020-21	Fall/Spring 2021-22	Increase/ Decrease
	MTH098	50.64%	53.90%	3.26%
	MTH099	65.04%	59.62%	-5.42%
	ENR098	64.41%	56.25%	-8.16%
	ENG099	65.71%	64.71%	-1.00%

Retention Rates

NWSCC tracks the fall-to-fall retention rate of incoming first-time full-time freshmen students. The following chart is a comparison of NWSCC retention rates with other Alabama community colleges based on the latest available data.

NWSCC Retention Rates Compared to All Alabama Community Colleges*



*Rate for Alabama includes all public, two-year colleges overseen by the Alabama Community College System, excepting Ingram State Technical College, comprised of incarcerated students.

Program Completions

NWSCC awarded an average of 1,335 associate degrees, career certificates, and short-term certificates over the last four academic years.

Number of Graduates				
Award	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Associate in Science	200	185	208	156
Associate in Arts	25	26	24	18
Associate in Applied Science	137	147	201	165
Associate in Occupational Technology	56	37	44	47
Certificates	167	149	166	193
Short Term Certificates	369	402	1423	795
Total Graduates	954	946	2,066	1,374

The College also monitors the number of graduates for each program. The target threshold is an average of 7.5 graduates over a three-year period. The following table provides the number of graduates by program along with the three-year average.

Graduates by Program							
CIP	Program	Award	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Total	Three-Year Average
520302	Accounting Technology	AOT, CER	7	17	11	35	11.67
150501	Air Conditioning/Refrigeration	AOT, CER	56	66	71	193	64.33
513801	Associate Degree Nursing	AAS	59	64	59	182	60.67
470603	Autobody/Collision and Repair Technology/Technician.	AOT, CER, STC	3	6	0	9	3
470604	Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician.	AOT, CER, STC	8	12	13	33	11
480703	Basic Cabinetmaking	STC	0	15	15	30	10
460201	Carpentry/Cabinetmaking	AOT, CER, STC	51	34	40	125	41.67
190708	Child Care and Support Services Management.	AAS, STC	26	21	15	62	20.67
110101	Computer Information Systems Technology	AAS, STC	38	51	42	131	43.67
120401	Cosmetology	CER, STC	0	2	2	4	1.33
430107	Criminal Justice	AAS	5	8	4	17	5.67
510911	Diagnostic Imaging – Radiography**	AAS	-	9	9	18	6
510910	Diagnostic Medical Sonography**	AAS, STC	-	8	4	12	4
151301	Drafting and Design Technology/Technician, General.	AAS, STC	10	12	8	30	10
460302	Electrical Technology	AOT, CER	44	73	82	199	66.33
510904	Emergency Medical Services	AAS, CER, STC	38	32	38	108	36
470105	Industrial Electronics Technology/Technician.	AAS, STC	3	0	0	3	1
470303	Industrial Maintenance	AAS	38	77	73	188	62.67
513901	Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training.	CER	83	52	77	212	70.67
480503	Machine Shop Technology	AOT, CER	10	15	11	36	12
510801	Medical Assisting Technology	AAS	31	38	36	105	35
520401	Office Administration	AAS, CER	9	11	13	33	11
460503	Plumbing**	STC	-	-	12	12	4

120412	Salon and Spa Management	AAS, CER, STC	39	60	50	149	49.67
240101	Transfer AA	AA	26	24	18	68	22.67
240102	Transfer AS	AS, STC	185	1157*	482	1824	608
150506	Water Quality and Wastewater Treatment	STC	5	1	2	8	2.67
480508	Welding	AOT, CER, STC	172	201	187	560	186.67

* During this academic year, the College began awarding short-term certificates for general education. This accounts for the unusually large number of Transfer AS STCs during this term.

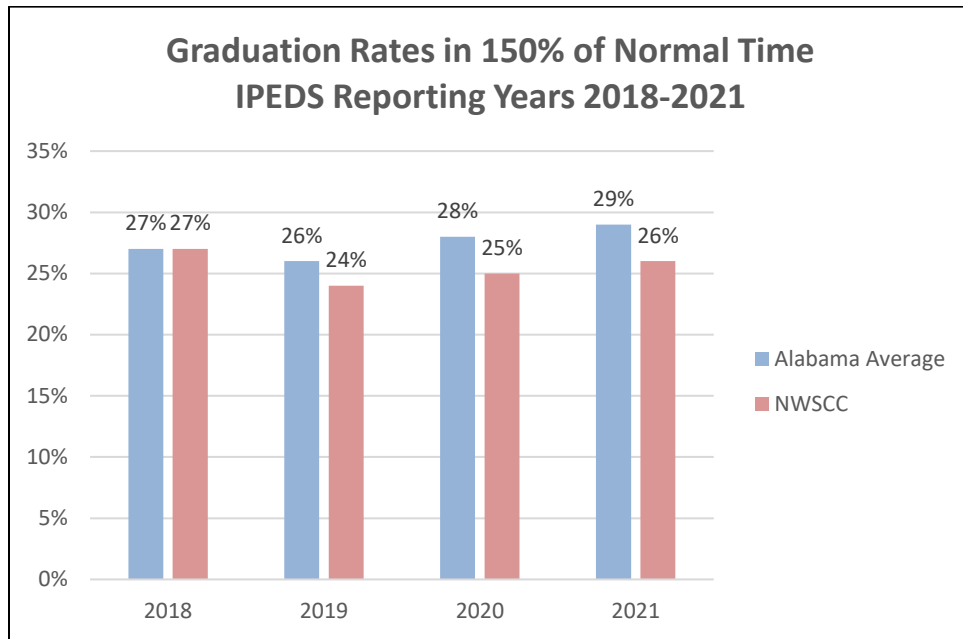
** New program where graduates are first recorded.

Graduation Rates

NWSCC monitors graduation rates in order to determine whether students are meeting their educational goals. The College reports the three-year graduation rate of its first-time full-time cohort as defined by the Integrated Postsecondary Education System (IPEDS). NWSCC's benchmark for the 150% graduation rate is a floating target within 7% of the average graduation rate among the other institutions in the Alabama Community College System. Comparative state data are accessed through the IPEDS Data Center. The table below shows the NWSCC graduation rate for the last four reporting periods, and the chart that follows displays the graduation rate comparison of NWSCC to other Alabama community colleges based on the latest available data. NWSCC has met the target in the last four reporting periods; This is a reflection of new student success initiatives that were implemented, having a positive impact on course success rates and student retention. In 2018, NWSCC matched the average graduation rate of Alabama Community Colleges, and has been within 2-3% of the average for the other 3 reporting periods.

Graduates in 150% of Normal Time				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Adjusted Cohort	606	751	677	639
Completers	161	178	166	166
Graduation Rate	27%	24%	25%	26%

NWSCC Success Rates Compared to All Alabama Community Colleges*



*Rate for Alabama includes all public, two-year colleges overseen by the Alabama Community College System, excepting Ingram State Technical College, comprised of incarcerated inmates.

Graduate Placement Rates

NWSCC collects data on graduates who are employed in the year following their graduation, and these data are reported in the annual Perkins Career Technical Education Report. The target threshold is 72% of graduates employed in the year following graduation. The following table shows the placement rates for graduates 2018-2019 through 2021-2022, which is the most recent data available.

Employment Status of CTE Student in the Year After Leaving Postsecondary				
	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Left Postsecondary	653	605	696	426
Total Employed	481	211*	545	318
Percent Employed	74%	35%	78%	75%

*Employment data provided in 2020 was incomplete due to Covid-19.

Licensure Exam Pass Rates

Completers from several NWSCC programs must pass licensure or certification exams in order to work in their disciplines. The College monitors the results of these examinations. The following three tables show completers' performance on individual licensure exams for the past three years, which demonstrates the strong preparation they received while at NWSCC.

Program	Licensure Exam	Class Finished in Spring/Summer 2020			
		Total Tested	Testers Passed	Percent Passed	Threshold to Achieve
Cosmetology	Cosmetology - Hair, etc.	16	15	93.75%	80%
Emergency Medical Services	Emergency Medical Services	13	9	69.23%	70%
Nursing (ADN)	National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX)	60	51	85%	80%
Nursing (PN)	National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX)	56	53	94.64%	80%
Radiography	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sonography	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Program	Licensure Exam	Class Finished in Spring/Summer 2021			
		Total Tested	Testers Passed	Percent Passed	Threshold to Achieve
Cosmetology	Cosmetology - Hair, etc.	0	0	0%*	80%
Emergency Medical Services	Emergency Medical Services	44	38	86.36%	70%
Nursing (ADN)	National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX)	64	50	78.13%	80%
Nursing (PN)	National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX)	43	42	97.67%	80%

Radiography	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)	9	5	55%	80%
Sonography	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)	4	2	50%	80%

*No testing due to the Covid pandemic.

Program	Licensure Exam	Class Finished in Spring/Summer 2022			
		Total Tested	Testers Passed	Percent Passed	Threshold to Achieve
Cosmetology	Cosmetology - Hair, etc.	17	17	100%	80%
Emergency Medical Services	Emergency Medical Services	49	44	89.80%	70%
Nursing (ADN)	National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX)	59	48	81.35%	80%
Nursing (PN)	National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX)	57	56	98.24%	80%
Radiography	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)	9	8	88.89%	80%
Sonography	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)	2	1	50%	80%