

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

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Regular Features

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FLASHBACK

THEN & NOW

NWFSC Student Financial Assistance		
	99-00	09-10
Total Dollars Awarded	\$7,502,398	\$21,112,910

FAST FACTS

- Florida's 28 colleges operate 183 sites around the state, providing educational opportunities within commuting distance to almost all of Florida's residents.
- A total of 86,970 degrees and certificates were awarded in Florida's College System for 2009-10, according to the Florida Department of Education.
- NWFSC has eight Best Practices submissions, including a 2009 winner, listed on FLDOE's Best Practices website (see link below).

WEB SIGHTINGS

- For a list of the newest acquisitions in NWFSC's Learning Resource Center: <http://lrc.nwfsc.edu/NewAcquisitions.cfm>
- View Best Practices in Florida Colleges: <http://www.fldoe.org/cc/Retention/>
- Find fascinating information in the Library of Congress's E-Resources online catalog: <http://eresources.loc.gov/>

TEACHING STRATEGY: EXAM WRAPPERS

The more engaged students become in their learning, the more they learn. Exam wrappers offer one strategy to engage students and to increase their sense of responsibility and efficacy. A wrapper is a sheet of paper stapled to the front of an exam as it is returned to a student (or a file sent to the student) that prompts him or her to think about more than just the grade earned. The wrapper encourages the student to reflect on the reasons for his or her performance and to plan accordingly for the next assessment.

The exam wrapper does not require extra work on the professor's part, except to print and staple the wrapper to the exam or to create a single file for students to download.

Here are sample questions for an exam wrapper:

1. How much time did you spend preparing for this exam?
2. What percentage of your test-preparation time was spent on each of these activities?
 - reading the textbook
 - rereading the textbook
 - highlighting important passages in the textbook
 - making chapter outlines
 - reviewing homework problems and solutions
 - solving practice problems
 - reviewing notes
 - using flashcards
 - looking at material on the course website, such as videos
 - other
3. After looking over your exam, estimate the percentage of points lost due to each of the following:
 - not knowing facts
 - careless errors
 - not understanding concepts
 - not knowing how to approach a problem
 - other
4. Based on your responses to the questions above, name at least three things you plan to do differently in preparing for the next exam. (This may be followed by study/test preparation advice.)
5. What questions will you need to ask the professor or college tutors to support your learning and your preparation for the next exam?

Questions can also be tailored to the specific discipline. For example, to see samples of science exam wrappers, see <http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/design/teach/examwrappers/index.html>.

In the most effective use of this strategy, professors collect these wrappers after students have answered the questions in writing and hand them out two weeks prior to the next exam during a discussion of preparation tips for that exam.

Sources

Carnegie Mellon, *Enhancing Education* <http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/design/teach/examwrappers/>
Faculty Focus <http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-and-learning/exam-wrappers/>
 The Teagle Foundation <http://www.teagle.org/learning/pdf/2009%20Midterm%20Exam%20Wrapper%20FIYS%20190%20google%20doc.pdf>

RESEARCH FACTOID

COURSES FROM WHICH STUDENTS MOST OFTEN WITHDRAW

The Division of Florida Colleges published a report in March 2011 focusing on course withdrawals. Courses with enrollments of 3,000 or more system-wide were included in the study, and they were ranked by the percentage of enrollments that resulted in withdrawals, not by the raw number of withdrawals. Thus, this report identifies courses with which students struggle the most.

The ten courses that produced the most withdrawals statewide are listed in Table 1.0, below.

Table 1.0 Courses with the Highest Percentage of Withdrawals, 2007-08 through 2009-10

Course No.	Course Name	Number of Colleges Offering Course	Withdrawals	Total Enrollments	Percent Withdrawn
MACX114	Trigonometry	26	8,872	46,922	18.9%
MACX233	Calculus for Business and Social Science I	26	9,075	48,192	18.8%
MACX311	Calculus I	26	5,038	27,832	18.1%
ACGX021	Accounting Principles	3	1,208	7,029	17.2%
CHMX045	General Chemistry	27	6,698	39,480	17.0%
MACX147	Precalculus Algebra/Trigonometry	13	2,185	13,586	16.1%
MACX140	Precalculus Algebra	25	7,479	46,795	16.0%
MACX105	College Algebra	28	44,535	278,759	16.0%
MACX312	Calculus with Analytic Geometry	23	2,318	14,572	15.9%
FREX120	Elementary French	16	1,007	6,374	15.8%

At NWFSC, students withdrew from the following five courses at higher rates than from other courses:

- CHMX045 College Chemistry I
- BSCX011 Principles of Biology II
- BSCX010 Principles of Biology I
- REAX001 College Prep Reading (now REA0007)
- CHMX046 College Chemistry II

The report also provides each college's overall withdrawal percentage from the 2007-08 academic year through the 2009-10 academic year. Systemwide, 11.3% of enrollments withdrew during this period. Northwest Florida State College was below the average with a 10.6% withdrawal rate, meaning that NWFSC's retention rate exceeds the state average. Chipola College claims the lowest withdrawal rate, with 6.3%, and the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota saw the most students withdraw: 15.5%.

Source: The Florida College System, *Most Commonly Withdrawn Courses*. FYI, March 2011

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WHERE ARE FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM STUDENTS GOING?

Students earning an AA, AAS, or AS degree in a Florida College System (FCS) institution have the option of continuing their education within the FCS, rather than transferring to the State University System (SUS). The twenty colleges offering baccalaureate degrees offer lower tuition and greater convenience for students earning either a BS or BAS (FCS institutions do not offer the BA degree).

Table 2.0 Florida College System Baccalaureate Enrollments by Degree Type*

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
BS	717	908	1,248	1,540	2,242	3,242	5,124
BAS	511	884	1,209	1,957	3,091	4,806	8,044
Total	1,228	1,792	2,457	3,497	5,333	8,048	13,168

Of those who continue their education beyond the associate's degree, FCS students tend to stay in the FCS or transfer to the SUS depending on the type of their associate's degree, as shown below. AS students are likely to complete a baccalaureate in the FCS, while most AA students transfer to the SUS. (Note that students may be in more than one type of institution.)

Table 3.0 Florida College System's Students' Completion of a Baccalaureate Degree*

Continuing Education in:	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
AS Degree						
FCS	858	58.1%	1,005	59.8%	1,141	61.6%
SUS	583	39.5%	625	37.2%	683	36.9%
Other	167	11.3%	202	12.0%	192	10.3%
AA Degree						
FCS	3,301	25.5%	4,599	22.2%	7,407	27.2%
SUS	9,678	74.6%	16,131	77.8%	20,623	75.8%
Other	832	6.4%	1,489	7.2%	1,970	7.3%

Note

*89%, or 25 of the 28, of state colleges responded to this survey.

Source

The Florida College System, *Program Review: Associate of Science to Baccalaureate Transfer*. January 2011, Edition PR 2011-01.

BRIGHT IDEAS



If you have a newsletter suggestion or a research idea, please contact us at: ir@nwfsc.edu or 729-5363.