Student Achievement

The criteria for tracking student achievement at Delgado Community College are: graduation rates, retention rates, students transferring to four-year universities, credential completion, and pass rates on professional licensure and certification exams. Delgado identifies goals for and measures outcomes on these student achievement criteria annually as part of its ongoing, integrated, institutional effectiveness process for evaluating how well it is achieving its strategic plan, mission, vision, and values. In addition, several of these measures align with targets set by the Louisiana Board of Regents as well as the "Reaching Prosperity" initiative of Louisiana's Community and Technical Colleges (LCTC).

1. Graduation Rate

Integrated Postsecondary Educational Data System (IPEDS) Graduation Rate for Students Who Graduate in 150% of Normal Time to Complete

Graduation rates are a standard measure that Delgado tracks and reports to federal and state governing entities each year. In general, assessing student graduation rates provides the College insight into how effectively it facilitates student completion in a timely manner.

The IPEDS Graduation Rate* is the most widely recognized graduation rate for postsecondary institutions. It provides a point of reference for comparing Delgado's outcomes to those among peer, state, and national public two-year colleges. The graduation rates shown in Table 1 measure the first-time, full-time, degree- and credential-seeking students who complete in 150% of normal time for their chosen credential. For example, many associate degree programs are two years in length, so 150% of normal time is three years.

Table 1: Graduation Rate

Fall Cohort	**2022**	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**	**2018**	**2017**	
Cohort #	1079	933	1049	1150	1252	1163	
Graduated in 150% Time	226	222	232	192	194	103	**Goal****
MEASURE 1: Graduation Rate	**21.0%**	**24.0%**	**22.0%**	**17.0%**	**15.0%**	**9.0%**	**20.0%**

* Key Student Completion Indicator reported to Southern Association of Colleges and Schools – Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)

** Goal of Board of Regents / Office of Planning and Budget 2023-24 to 2027-28 Act 160 Strategic Plan

2. Retention

2.1 Fall-to-Spring Retention

The Fall-to-Spring retention of first-time, full-time, degree- and credential-seeking students is a standard metric that Delgado tracks. At Delgado, these cohorts consist of students who are attending college for the first-time, are enrolled for at least 12 semester hours, and are enrolled in a credit-earning program leading to a credential recognized by the Board of Regents. The Fall-to-Spring retention rate is calculated based on the number of these students who enroll each fall and who are still enrolled in the subsequent spring.

2.2 Fall-to Fall Retention

Fall-to-Fall (first-to-second year) retention is a standard metric that Delgado tracks and reports to federal and state governing entities each year. At Delgado, these cohorts consist of students who are attending college for the first-time, are enrolled for at least 12 semester hours, and are enrolled in a credit-earning program leading to a credential recognized by the Board of Regents. The Fall-to-Fall retention rate is calculated based on the number of first-time, full-time, degree- and credential-seeking students who enroll each fall and re-enroll in the subsequent fall.

Table 2: Fall-to-Spring and Fall-to-Fall Retention of First-Time, Full-Time, Degree- and Credential-Seeking Students

Fall Cohort	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Goal*
MEASURE 2.1: Fall-Spring Retention Rate	74.1%	71.5%	68.0%	73.1%	75.8%	75.3%	75.8%

Fall Cohort	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Goal**
MEASURE 2.2 Fall-Fall Retention Rate	49.9%	49.8%	48.5%	51.4%	51.2%	45.4%	60.3%

* Previous Five-Year High (2016-2020 Cohorts)
** Average Rate of SACSCOC Peer Institutions (for most recent year of comparable data (currently the Fall 2023 cohort))

3. Students Transferring to Four-Year Universities

Many associate degree programs at Delgado are transfer-ready for students pursuing admittance to a four-year college or university. Delgado has transfer articulation agreements with numerous four-year universities in Louisiana and with some in other states. The annual number of transfer students provides a measure of the College's effectiveness in preparing students to enter a four-year university.

According to the LCTCS definition for this measure, a student is counted as transferring to a four-year institution if they are enrolled at Delgado in a given academic year (July 1 – June 30), and enrolled at a four-year university in the following academic year, as documented by National Student Clearinghouse data.

Table 3: Annual Students Transferred to 4-Year University

Academic Year	Students Transferred	% of Total Enrollment*
2025-26	**2.444**	**12.2%**
2024-25	**2,481**	**13.7%**
2023-24	**2,352**	**13.3%**
2022-23	**2,336**	**13.5%**
2021-22	**2,808**	**14.8%**
2020-21	**2,969**	**14.0%**

Goal^
14.8% of Total Enrollment

* Relative to previous year

^ Previous Five-Year High

4. Students Earning a Credential

4.1 Total Unduplicated Completer Count

The number of students earning a credential recognized by the Louisiana Board of Regents is a standard metric that Delgado tracks and reports to federal and state governing entities each year. This metric aligns with multiple components of the College's 2023-28 Strategic Plan, including Directives C2-A ("Providing the highest quality programs and services to reduce barriers for college completion") and C2-E ("Broadening pathways for career advancement and educational attainment") and with Goal 1 of LCTC's "Reaching Prosperity" initiative.

4.2 Adult Student Completers

The number of adult student completers (age 25 and older at start of graduation year) who complete a credential recognized by the Board of Regents is aligned with the 2019 Board of Regents' Master Plan which calls for 60% of all working adults (ages 25-64) in Louisiana to hold a degree or high-value credential by 2030. Adult students are a core constituency of Delgado, regularly comprising nearly 50% of the student body.

Table 4: Total Completers and Adult Student Completers

Academic Year	MEASURE 4.1: Total Unduplicated Completers		MEASURE 4.2: Adult Student Completers	
	Headcount	% of Total Enrollment	Headcount	% of Total Enrollment
2025-26	**3,610**	**18.8%**	**2,199**	**11.4%**
2024-25	**2,441**	**12.2%**	**1,434**	**7.2%**
2023-24	**2,453**	**13.6%**	**1,416**	**7.8%**
2022-23	**2,552**	**14.4%**	**2,074**	**11.7%**
2021-22	**2,406**	**13.9%**	**1,571**	**9.1%**
2020-21	**2,846**	**15.0%**	**1,859**	**9.8%**

Goal*	Goal*
3,610	**2,199**

* Previous Five-Year High

5. Pass Rates on Professional Licensure/Certification Exams

Delgado offers many degree and credential programs that aim to produce workforce-ready graduates in vocational fields. The College tracks passage rates of students on professional licensure and certification exams in programs whose fields require or prefer a certification or licensure for employment. Pass rates on licensure and certification exams provide the College objective insight into how well such programs train students in the knowledge, standards, and competencies required for entry into their fields. Professional licensure of graduates in their respective fields aligns with the College's 2023-28 Strategic Plan, particularly Directive 3 ("Continue to meet head-on the needs of a changing workforce and provide graduates who are excellently trained for career opportunities"). In addition, continued programmatic accreditation for many programs requires that the programs' graduates consistently attain minimum benchmarks on certification/licensure exams. Table 5 lists each such exam next to the Delgado program of study that prepares students for the exam.

Table 5: Pass Rates on Professional Licensure/Certification Exams

DCC Measure	Professional Licensure / Certification Exam	DCC Program	Licensure/Certification Exam Pass Rate Outcomes / Reporting Period					Goal
5.a	Barber-Stylist Licensure Exam	**Barber-Styling, Technical Diploma**	Calendar Year 2026	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	75% Pass Rate
			Not available	Not available	9 Licensed	11 Licensed	2 Licensed	
	Notes: Passing the licensure exams is not required to graduate from the program. The program only receives confirmation of students who pass and become licensed.							
5.b	Cosmetology National and Practical Exam	**Cosmetology, Technical Diploma**	Academic Year 2024-25	Academic Year 2023-24	Academic Year 2022-23	Academic Year 2021-22	Academic Year 2020-21	75% Pass Rate
			Not available	Not available	8 Passed National Exam / 11 Passed Practical Exam	10 Passed National Exam / 10 Passed Practical Exam	5 Passed National Exam / 3 Passed Practical Exam	
	Notes: Passing the licensure exams is not required to graduate from the program. The program only receives confirmation of students who pass and become licensed.							
5.c	American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Exams (Credentialization)	**Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Post-Associate Certificate**	2025 Graduates	2024 Graduates	2023 Graduates	2022 Graduates	2021 Graduates	100% of Students Become Credentialed
			100% credentialed	100% credentialed	100% credentialed	100% credentialed	100% credentialed	
	Notes: the accrediting body and the program both aim for graduates to become "credentialed," which equates to passing both the Sonography Principles & Instrumentation exam, and at least one specialty exam. The data shown here reflect the credential rate for each year's graduating class.							
5.d	National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (written and practical skills)	**EMT Paramedic, Certificate of Technical Studies**	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2021	80% Pass Rate
			100% Written / 100% Practical	100% Written / 100% Practical	86% Written / 100% Practical	100% Written / 100% Practical	60% Written / 100% Practical	
5.e	National Board Exam	**Funeral Service Education, Associate of Applied Science**	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2021	75% Pass Rate on both Arts and Sciences
			Arts: 75% / Sciences: 88%	Arts: 40% / Sciences: 67%	Arts: 76% / Sciences: 74%	Arts: 47% / Sciences: 64%	Arts: 80% / Sciences: 100%	
	Notes: Prior to 2020, the pass rate was reported by the examining body as a three-year average.							

DCC Measure	Professional Licensure / Certification Exam	DCC Program	Licensure/Certification Exam Pass Rate Outcomes / Reporting Period					Goal
5.f	Registered Health Information Technician	**Health Information Technology, Associate of Applied Science (*program deleted 2025)***	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2021	70% Pass Rate
			No students testing	100%	No students testing	67%	60%	
5.g	EPA Section 608 Certification Exam	**HVAC Technician, Certificate of Technical Studies**	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	75% Pass Rate
			(not available)	(not available)	(not available)	(not available)	66%	
5.h	Massage and Bodywork Licensing and Examination	**Massage Therapy, Certificate of Technical Studies**	Academic Year 2025-26	Academic Year 2024-25	Academic Year 2023-24	Academic Year 2022-23	Academic Year 2021-22	100% Pass Rate for First-Time Test Takers
			4 of 5 graduates passed; 1 not yet tested	90%	80% (8 Passed / 10 Graduates)	60% (3 Passed / 5 Graduates)	62.5% (5 Passed / 8 Graduates)	
5.i	American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification exam	**Medical Laboratory Technician, Associate of Applied Science**	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2021	100% Pass Rate for First-Time Test Takers
			100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
5.j	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (Nuclear Medicine) ARRT(N) and/or Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB)	**Nuclear Medicine Technology, Associate of Applied Science**	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2021	100% of graduates pass at least one of the exams
			73%	58%	89%	67%	89%	
	Notes: The combined NMTCB and ARRT examination annual pass rate. Passing either of the exams listed above renders the student eligible for employment in Louisiana.							
5.k	National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN)	**Nursing, Associate of Science**	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2021	90% Pass Rate
			89.6%	90.8%	84.3%	81.6%	88.9%	
5.l	National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy	**Occupational Therapy Assistant, Associate of Applied Science**	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2021	Greater than 80% Annual Pass Rate
			89%	86%	82%	75%	100%	

DCC Measure	Professional Licensure / Certification Exam	DCC Program	Licensure/Certification Exam Pass Rate Outcomes / Reporting Period					Goal
5.m	Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE)	**Pharmacy Technician, Career and Technical Certificate / Certificate of Technical Studies**	Academic Year 2025-26	Academic Year 2024-25	Academic Year 2023-24	Academic Year 2022-23	Academic Year 2021-22	90% of graduates pass the exam
			82.0%	92.9%	100.0%	100.0%	87.5%	
	Notes: prior to academic year 2019-20, this exam was taken by students of the Pharmacy Technician Certificate of Technical Studies (CTS) program. Beginning in 2019-20 up to the current date, the Pharmacy Technician Career and Technical Certificate (CTC) is the program that trains students to pass this exam and obtain Pharmacy Technician certification. Outcome shown for 2019-20 is from combination of CTC/CTS exam takers.							
5.n	National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE) for Physical Therapist Assistants	**Physical Therapist Assistant, Associate of Applied Science**	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2021	100% Pass Rate
			92%	92%	100%	100%	100%	
5.o	National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN)	**Practical Nursing, Technical Diploma**	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2021	90% Pass Rate
			90.2%	85.1%	94.0%	75.6%	80.0%	
5p	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) in Radiation Therapy	**Radiation Therapy, Post-Associate Certificate**	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2021	100% Pass Rate
			No students testing	100%	87.5%	No students testing	71.4%	
	Notes: The Radiation Therapy program operates on an entering cohort cycle, lasting sixteen months over four semesters. So there is not a cohort of graduates every calendar year.							
5.q	American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (Radiography)	**Radiologic Technology, Associate of Applied Science**	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	Calendar Year 2021	90% Pass Rate
			92%	92%	98%	89%	98%	
5.r	Respiratory Care Therapist Multiple Choice Exam (Achieving High Cut Score)	**Respiratory Care Technology, Associate of Applied Science**	AY 2024-25 (2025 Graduates)	AY 2023-24 (2024 Graduates)	AY 2022-23 (2023 Graduates)	AY 2021-22 (2022 Graduates)	AY 2020-21 (2021 Graduates)	100% of students pass both exams and obtain the higher credential
			93%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
	Respiratory Care Therapist Clinical Simulation Exam		AY 2024-25 (2025 Graduates)	AY 2023-24 (2024 Graduates)	AY 2022-23 (2023 Graduates)	AY 2021-22 (2022 Graduates)	AY 2020-21 (2021 Graduates)	
			86%	100%	100%	62%	82.0%	
	Notes: There are two exams, one multiple choice, and the other a clinical simulation. The student must achieve a High Cut Score on the Multiple Choice exam to qualify for the Clinical Simulation exam. The pass rates shown for the Multiple Choice Exam reflect students who attained the High Cut Score.							

DCC Measure	Professional Licensure / Certification Exam	DCC Program	Licensure/Certification Exam Pass Rate Outcomes / Reporting Period					Goal
5.s	Registration in Polysomnographic Technology	**Sleep Technology, Associate of Applied Science / Certificate of Technical Studies**	Calendar Year 2026	Calendar Year 2025	Calendar Year 2024	Calendar Year 2023	Calendar Year 2022	100% Pass Rate
			75%	100%	100%	No students testing	50%	
5.t	National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting	**Surgical Technology, Associate of Applied Science**	Academic Year 2024-25	Academic Year 2023-24	Academic Year 2022-23	Academic Year 2021-22	Academic Year 2020-21	90% Pass Rate
			96%	94%	88%	74%	94%	
5.u	Veterinary Technician National Exam	**Veterinary Technology, Associate of Applied Science**	Academic Year 2025-26	Academic Year 2024-25	Academic Year 2023-24	Academic Year 2022-23	Academic Year 2021-22	Match national pass rate
			Update anticipated in Spring 2027	85.0%	80.0%	40.0%	37.0%	