WORKFORCE PREPARATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES
LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION PASS RATES: NORTH CAROLINA

Pass rate for North Carolina Community College students who took exams for the first time

86%

What Is Measured?
Licensing and certification exam pass rates

Who Is Counted?
North Carolina Community College students who took licensing and certification exams for the first time in 2008-09

What It Tells Us
86 percent of North Carolina Community Colleges students passed licensing and certification exams their first time.

Why It’s Important
For many occupations, in particular those in the health industry, licensure is required to work in the field. Licensing standards vary by state and occupation, but they typically require a minimum level of education in a specified field and a passing score on a test of competence (Krueger 2006). Licensure exam pass rates indicate how well community colleges are preparing their students for future employment.

ABOUT THE DATA
Licensing exams: include only those that are required for North Carolina licensure to practice a profession.

Certification exams: generally voluntary but may be required by employers or outside accrediting agencies. Purely voluntary exams are not reported.

Data were collected by the Research and Performance Management section in the President’s Office of the North Carolina Community College System from the agencies issuing the license or certification. Examination data were reported only for those licensure/certification exams for which data were available from the licensure/certification agencies. The data for most examinations were reported for a fiscal year. However, the data on nursing, emergency medical technician, physical therapy assistant, and veterinary medicine technology were reported for a calendar year. Passing rates were calculated by dividing the number of persons who successfully passed an examination the first time they took it by the number of persons who sat for the exam for the first time. An aggregate institutional passing rate was calculated by dividing the total number of first-time test-takers for all reported examinations by the total number of persons who sat for the exam for the first time.

DATA SOURCE