

Allan Hancock College Fact Book 2011

Introduction

The Office of Institutional Research and Planning at Allan Hancock College is pleased to present the 2011 Fact Book. This document is intended to answer frequently asked questions about the college's service area, students, faculty, staff, and programs. Historical enrollment trends are presented at the district level as well as by center and by residence. The primary function of the Fact Book is to assist in planning, assessment, and decision-making. These data should also provide useful background data for grants and other research proposals.

The reporting cycle for general enrollment information typically includes summer, fall and spring of each academic year. Following standard convention we report only fall information on most student demographic and outcomes data. This practice allows us to include more up-to-date information, since some information is not available for the most recent academic year until the following year. Also, reporting only fall data allows for cleaner comparisons of longitudinal trends in student outcomes.

We print only a limited set of hardcopies due to fiscal constraints. Fact Books and other research documents are available online at <http://research.hancockcollege.edu/>.

The Fact Book is not only intended to serve internal needs, but also external reporting obligations associated with increased accountability requirements. As reporting obligations change over time the Fact Book will evolve to serve these needs.

Data Sources

Unless otherwise noted, source data for the fact book are the Management Information System (MIS) data submitted to the Chancellor's Office. The advantage of using these data is the consistency in definition over time and in comparison to statewide data. These are also the same data used in accountability reporting such the Partnership for Excellence (PFE) and Student Right to Know (SRTK). The MIS student data are "snap shots" taken at the end of each semester. All activity that satisfies the MIS data definitions is recorded and stored. Thus, these data reflect all legitimate enrollments over the entire semester and not a "point in time" like census. The advantage to using these data is that trends can be assessed over time without concern for census dates. This is particularly advantageous at institutions where courses begin and end throughout the semester. Any differences in numbers between information reported from these data and other documents occur likely because of the criteria applied when the data are collected, including the time at which the data are archived. For example, for a student to be enrolled in the MIS definition, the student must have attempted at least one-half unit or eight hours of positive attendance at any time during the term. Other reports of enrollment are often based on census enrollment during the semester.

Acknowledgements

The Fact Book is a product of campus wide-cooperation and effort. However, this document is chiefly a product of the effort and dedication of our senior research and planning analyst, Armando Cortez. Many thanks also to Janet Ford, Assistant Director in the Office of Information Technology Services, as well as her programming staff. Many individuals are directly and indirectly a part of this publication. Campus data, including MIS, originate in a number of offices across the college. The Office of Admissions and Records is where student specific characteristics are obtained during the registration process and also where the MIS award data are created. Staffing data originate in Human Resources; student service and special populations data originate in the Offices of Learning Assistance, EOPS, Financial Aid, and Counseling. The instructional side of the college assigns course specific information including the location, method of instruction, transferability of a course, and various other attributes and descriptions. I am grateful to all of you who diligently work towards maintaining the accuracy and integrity of these data.

If you have any questions or comments, or you would like to see additional information in the next fact book do not hesitate to contact the Office of Institutional Research and Planning.

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