

American River College

Midterm Report

Submitted by:

American River College
4700 College Oak Drive
Sacramento, CA 95841

Submitted to:

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges,
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

March 4, 2019

Midterm Report Certification

To: Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges,
Western Association of Schools and Colleges

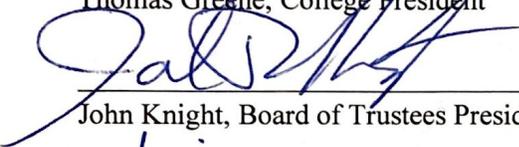
From: Thomas Greene, President
American River College
4700 College Oak Drive
Sacramento, CA 95841

I certify there was broad participation/review by the campus community and believe this Report accurately reflects the nature and substance of this institution.

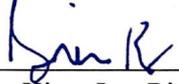
Signatures:



Thomas Greene, College President 1/30/19
(Date)



John Knight, Board of Trustees President 2/13/19
(Date)



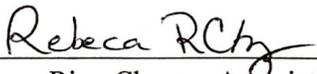
Brian King, Los Rios Community College District Chancellor (Date)



Gary Aguilar, Academic Senate President 1/30/19
(Date)



Olga Prizhbilov, Classified Senate President 1/30/19
(Date)



Rebeca Rico-Chavez, Associated Student Body President 1/30/19
(Date)



Adam Karp, Accreditation Liaison Officer 1-28-19
(Date)



William Simpson, Faculty Accreditation Chair 1-29-19
(Date)

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Report Preparation

In response to the recommendations resulting from the October 2015 team visit, American River College submitted a Follow-Up Report to ACCJC as required, and the College was notified in June 2017 that the Commission acted to reaffirm its accreditation for the remainder of the accreditation cycle. Since that time, the College continued its work to address its self-identified actionable improvement plans as well as the visiting team's recommendations for improvement.

The process used to prepare the Midterm Report was discussed in fall 2017 with the President's Executive Staff (PES). PES reviewed a timeline for the Report and discussed the process for disseminating the Report through the college's governance process to gather constituency input. As part of the implementation of the College's new governance structure, the Institutional Effectiveness Council met for the first time in January 2018. At its inaugural meeting the members of the Council reviewed its charter, which describes the Council's role as it pertains to accreditation. Chaired by the accreditation liaison officer and co-chaired by the faculty accreditation co-chair, the Institutional Effectiveness Council is charged with considering the state of the College's progress in regional accreditation. The Council also coordinates accountability and performance reporting associated with regional accreditation. Additionally, the Council provides leadership and coordination and monitors regional accreditation processes and requirements.

At its February meeting, the Institutional Effectiveness Council reviewed the timeline and the process for preparing the Midterm Report. The faculty, staff, and administrators serving on the Council maintained general oversight of the work on the Report. In addition, the Accreditation Liaison Officer was identified to oversee the writing of the Report for the College. A discussion of the Midterm Report process was led by Institutional Effectiveness Council representatives at the Executive Leadership Team meeting in March 2018. Following discussion of the Report with the Institutional Effectiveness Council in September and October, a draft of the Report was presented to the Executive Leadership Team for review at its meeting on November 5, 2018.

Constituency feedback was gathered, and the Institutional Effectiveness Council discussed feedback on the draft Report at its meeting on November 26, 2018. The Executive Leadership Team voted by consensus at its meeting on December 3, 2018 to forward the Report for review by the District Accreditation Coordinating Committee.

Plans Arising out of the Self-Evaluation Process

Actionable Improvement Plans Summary

1. **Develop integrated planning and governance guide.** The College will develop a Guide to ARC's Integrated Planning & Governance Processes (I.A.4, I.B.4)
2. **Develop capacity for focus groups.** The College will develop the capacity to regularly conduct focus groups. (I.B.3)
3. **Improve SLO assessment process.** The Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee (SLOAC) will continue to assess and improve the broad direct assessment, known as the AARR process (II.A.1.a)
4. **Develop SLO assessment handbook.** The SLOAC will develop a handbook to augment the existing set of web pages to assist in training of new faculty and to provide a reference for faculty as they participate in the formal SLO assessment process. In conjunction with the handbook, the SLOAC will also review the faculty ease of interface for the new AARR process. (II.A.1.c)
5. **Validate assessment instruments.** The College will submit necessary validation results to the CCCCO in order to regain approved status for the use of its ESL writing sample and the CCDT tests. In addition, it will complete the validation of the updated Compass Math tests. (II.B.3.e)
6. **Provide governance training.** In the spirit of continuous improvement of the College participatory governance processes, the College will establish a work group to organize and deliver training for all standing committee chairs. Chairs will subsequently provide training and orientation on the functions/responsibilities of their respective committees to their members no later than the second scheduled meeting of the academic year. (IV.A.2.a)

Outcome of Actionable Improvement Plans

Self-Identified Improvement Plan	Outcome	Timeline / Responsible Parties	Standards
<p>1. Develop integrated planning and governance guide</p>	<p>Following dialogue and discussion with Academic Senate leadership and the President’s Executive Staff in December 2015, the College convened a Governance Task Force, comprised of faculty, staff, administrators, and student representatives, to examine the current governance structure and to recommend a redesign of the College’s governance process that would better serve the needs of the College. (IP1.1, 1.2) The Governance Task Force presented the culmination of its work to the Planning Coordination Council in fall 2017, and the new governance structure was approved for implementation by the College president and published on the College website. (IP1.3) The adopted ARC Participatory Governance and Integrated Strategic Planning Framework has guided the mechanism by which the College is implementing its strategic plan. (IP1.4)</p> <p>Under its new governance framework, the Institutional Effectiveness Council sponsored the chartering of an Integrated Planning Improvement project team charged with development an Integrated Planning Guide. (IP1.5) The team completed its work as scheduled in fall 2018 and presented its deliverable to the Council for action. (IP1.6) The Council supported forwarding the Integrated Planning Guide to the Executive Leadership Team for review and support at its February 2019 meeting.</p>	<p>Completed / Institutional Effectiveness Council; Integrated Planning Improvement Project Team</p>	<p>I.A.4, I.B.4</p>

2.	Develop capacity for focus groups	<p>In 2017 a full-time research analyst was hired to improve the college’s capacity to conduct qualitative research.</p> <p>As a means to inform the institutional focus on redesigning the student experience, during fall 2017 and spring 2018 a number of focus groups were conducted to hear directly from students about their earliest experiences at the College. Facilitated by the newly hired qualitative research analyst, focus groups were conducted to investigate how students picked majors, how they felt about the amount and types of support and connections that they made, their feelings of belonging at ARC, along with classroom experience and how the students felt about their overall ARC experience. (IP2.1) From this, we discovered that students were critical of their counseling experience at ARC. Students felt disconnected from counselors, they were dissatisfied with the fact that they rarely saw the same counselor twice, and they disliked how difficult it was to get appointments with counselors. Among other things, students described the hurdles that they face at school, how they explored majors, the services they utilized and how they felt ARC could improve. (IP2.2) These results were considered in the design of case-management approach for counseling as part of the new student experience called Achieve@ARC. (IP2.3)</p> <p>Additionally, the College conducted focus groups that investigated the relevance of institutional student learning outcomes (ISLOs) for students that had recently petitioned to graduate. (IP2.4) As the College worked to update the ISLOs, it became apparent that student voices were needed to fully understand which ISLOs made sense to students and which did not. The SLOAC utilized the findings from these focus groups</p>	Completed / Office of Institutional Research	I.B.3
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	<p>at its ISLO retreat to inform revision of the College’s ISLOs. (IP2.5) Armed with this qualitative data, the SLOAC worked to finish the design of a quantitative instrument that will be administered and which aims to evaluate whether and how well the College is ensuring students graduate having gained the skills outlined in the ISLOs.</p> <p>Focus groups were also conducted with foster youth students. The data collected from these groups were used to understand how services could be better directed toward and more beneficial for foster youth students. The students shared their perspectives on such things as their financial hurdles and the unique circumstances of their lives which have required them to spend countless hours tracking down court papers and legal documents to be able to prove their foster youth status. This gave insight into how their home-lives and family-lives are often different from those of non-foster youth students and the impacts and pressures on their education that result. (IP2.6)</p> <p>Following the implementation of Achieve@ARC, the College will conduct additional focus groups to investigate and work to better understand how the elements of the Achieve program impacted those students who participated in the program. The College will be investigating what the students found most helpful during their onboarding and orientation, what they liked about the case-management model that has been adopted by counseling. Importantly the College will be asking students for critical feedback to inform further work to optimize the program, use data to drive decisions, and, ultimately, put students first and work toward ensuring their success.</p>		
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3.	<p>Improve SLO assessment process</p>	<p>The Authentic Assessment Review Record (AARR) has been fully implemented and all instructional SLO assessment cohorts have participated in the broad-based assessment. Faculty have been asked to document their assessment of up to three randomly assigned SLOs during the assessment cycle.</p> <p>As shown in the chart below, the AARR process has resulted in broad faculty participation.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="402 646 1101 856"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="402 646 634 789">Number of Completed AARRs</th> <th data-bbox="634 646 867 789">Number of Requested AARRs</th> <th data-bbox="867 646 1101 789">Response Rate</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="402 789 634 856">1050</td> <td data-bbox="634 789 867 856">1524</td> <td data-bbox="867 789 1101 856">69.0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The AARR has strengthened the alignment of individual course SLOs and ISLOs. It includes documentation of assessment of all locations, modes of delivery, and faculty status. After the first year of implementation, the SLOAC made changes to the AARR to allow faculty to report individual actions to improve student learning in addition to required actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2015-2016: 23 actions reported (before the AARR modification asking for actions even though the faculty are satisfied with the level of student learning) ● In 2016-2017: 78 actions reported (67 additional due to modification asking for actions even though the faculty are satisfied with the level of student learning) ● In 2017-2018: 114 actions reported (92 additional due to modification asking for actions even though the faculty are satisfied with the level of student learning) <p>Upon completion of the three-year cycle and additional review, further improvement is planned. In spring 2019, the sample rate will change from every</p>	Number of Completed AARRs	Number of Requested AARRs	Response Rate	1050	1524	69.0%	<p>Completed / SLO Assessment Committee</p>	<p>II.A.1.a</p>
Number of Completed AARRs	Number of Requested AARRs	Response Rate								
1050	1524	69.0%								

		three years to annually and faculty will be asked to document their review of one randomly assigned SLO instead of up to three. As an additional outcome of this review, the SLOAC has eliminated the Focused Assessment Plan and incorporated each part into curriculum, annual planning or program review which is aligned with the goal of respecting faculty workload. (IP3.1 , 3.2 , 3.3)		
4.	Develop SLO assessment handbook	The SLO Assessment Committee handbook is complete. It is annually reviewed and revised to reflect current processes. (IP4.1)	Completed / SLO Assessment Committee	II.A.1.c
5.	Validate assessment instruments	The college submitted validation data in November 2015 and in February 2016 was awarded probationary approval for continued use of the ESL writing sample. (IP5.1) The additional validation research necessary to achieve full approval status was scheduled for completion by April 2018. However, this work was put on hold due to statewide changes relating to assessment placement. These include the State Chancellor’s Office spring 2016 suspension through April 2017 of validation requirements, the Common Assessment Initiative and its eventual dissolution, MMAP, and finally the sunseting of assessment instruments in spring 2019. Therefore, this item is no longer relevant and no further action will be taken, although ARC is committed to satisfying all future validation requirements as they relate to assessment placement mechanisms, such as those detailed in AB705.	Completed / Office of Institutional Research	II.B.3.e
6.	Provide governance training	The College established a three-member workgroup comprised of a faculty with partial reassigned time, a consultant, and one manager to support the implementation of the new governance framework. One of its key responsibilities was to design and	Completed / Governance Workgroup; Institutional	IV.A.2.a

	<p>deliver training for all members of governance groups. In order to effectively address the needs of participants in the governance entities, according to their roles in the governance process, three training activities were provided in fall 2018. The first training session provided notetakers an introduction to the new Institutional Governance Online Repository (IGOR), created by the College's IT department in collaboration with the governance workgroup, and Basecamp, the platform adopted by the College to support the collaborative work of project teams and councils. (IP6.1) The second training session provided council chairs/co-chairs and project team leads/co-leads with training on facilitative leadership as well as on IGOR and Basecamp. (IP6.2) The third training session provided a comprehensive overview of the governance process for all governance members of councils and project teams. (IP6.3)</p> <p>The workgroup has documented its recommendations for institutionalizing support for the new governance structure. A draft of these recommendations was recommended by the Institutional Effectiveness Council in December 2018 to be forwarded to the Executive Leadership Team for action in February 2019. It is recommended that governance training will occur regularly as new project teams are established, council membership changes, and as members who are new to serving on governance groups need support. Formative and summative evaluation of the new governance process, including training, will occur regularly. On an ongoing basis, each iteration of governance training will be updated based on data gathered and lessons learned, with continuous quality improvement of the governance process overall being central to the work.</p>	Effectiveness Council	
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Institutional Reporting on Quality Improvements

Response to Team Recommendations for Improvement

College Recommendation 1 was a recommendation to meet the Standards. The College address this recommendation in its Follow-Up Report, and it was approved by the Commission in June 2017. College Recommendations 2, 3, and 4 were recommendations to improve institutional effectiveness and are addressed in this section.

College Recommendation 2: *In order to improve institutional effectiveness, the evaluation team recommends that the College develop and implement a regularly scheduled and systematic evaluation of their governance and decision-making structures to assure their integrity and effectiveness. (I.B.6-7, IV.A.5)*

In fall 2015, conversations began based on a growing concern that despite the resources devoted to governance in terms of time and commitment of participants, the current committee structure at ARC had become unwieldy, siloed and was appearing inadequate when it came to responding in a timely and transparent way to new initiatives. Feedback from the classified staff, faculty, and management constituency groups suggested that the dissemination of information between committees and constituent groups could be improved, and that some committee activities were duplicative, inefficient, or not well communicated to other committees or workgroups at the College. The proliferation of workgroups and task forces indicated that our present governance structure was not reflecting the most effective and efficient governance model for what is a rapidly evolving landscape. Feedback from the constituency groups also suggested that the functions for standing committees may no longer be aligned with the needs of the College to the same degree as they have in the past. Concern was expressed that our present governance structure may not be meeting our current needs and that increased institutional effectiveness and capacity is necessary in order to support our strategic plan and maintain the integrity of our institution. ([R2.1](#))

Upon the recommendation of the Planning and Coordinating Council, in fall 2016 a group of faculty, classified staff, management, and student representatives were appointed to a Governance Task Force. This task force was charged with affirming those aspects of our institutional processes and governance structures that are working effectively while creating an efficient structure that allows the College to work smarter and adapt to a continually and rapidly changing environment. The task force was also committed to building on the strong institutional

history of trust-based relationships to preserve and further enhance a participatory leadership culture. ([R2.2](#), [2.3](#))

The task force established specific institutional redesign priorities intended to ensure the system of governance would be strategic, streamlined, agile, inclusive, value- and results-based. Additionally, the task force was charged with recommending a governance structure as a means to implement the College's strategic priorities. Guided by these priorities and informed by the College strategic plan, the Governance Task Force proposed the ARC Participatory Governance and Integrated Strategic Planning Framework which was adopted by the Planning Coordination Council on October 2, 2017. ([R2.4](#), [2.5](#))

The transition to the new governance structure began in spring 2018, and the College fully implemented the new governance model in fall 2018. ([R2.6](#)) The work of each of the College's three governance councils, as well as the work of the project teams sponsored by the councils, is guided by a specific charter which describes the group's purpose and scope, duties and outcomes, deliverables, and membership. At the start of the term, the charters are systematically reviewed and modified to reflect the necessary work of the council or team. ([R2.7](#), [2.8](#), [2.9](#)). Additionally, the College created the Institutional Governance Online Repository (IGOR) to provide timely access to meeting agendas, notes, rosters, templates, and other governance documents. ([R2.10](#)) The College will conduct regularly scheduled and systematic evaluation of its governance and decision-making process each spring semester.

College Recommendation 3: *In order to improve institutional effectiveness, the evaluation team recommends that the College firmly establish a culture of evidence in all facets of institutional processes. The evaluation team further recommends that this include a systematic, integrated, and longitudinal analysis of quantitative data. (I.B.1, I.B.3, I.B.4, I.B.7, II.A.1.a, II.A.2.d-e, and IV.A.1)*

Longitudinal data was published and examined by the College as a key component of making the case for engaging in institutional redesign to improve outcomes for all students. ([R3.1](#))

In its commitment to providing systematic, integrated, and longitudinal analyses of quantitative data, the College is integrating its new, longitudinal data-on-demand system with existing planning and other processes. The college's Integrated Planning Portal includes a longitudinal reporting component for a standard set of metrics ([R3.2](#)), and the program review planning process support team (quality enhancement support team - QuEST) includes a research office staff member. ([R3.3](#))

The institution is in the process of building a data dashboard to be deployed in spring 2019. The data dashboard presents visualizations of the College's progress towards achieving its strategic goals, as well as on-demand factbook visualizations for institutional data.

Additionally, utilizing disaggregated longitudinal data has been critical for examining equity gaps and to inform strategies for improving the opportunity gaps that exist for disproportionately impacted groups of students. The College established the Equity Action Institute, which provides faculty opportunities to engage in inquiry and examination of course-level, disaggregated longitudinal data and exploration of instructional practices to better serve marginalized student populations. Participants were guided through analysis of their own disaggregated course-level data. ([R3.4](#))

College Recommendation 4: *In order to improve institutional effectiveness, the evaluation team recommends that the College formalize its course substitution policy for discontinued or modified programs and publishes this policy appropriately. (II.A.6.b)*

The College has formalized its policy for discontinued or modified programs. A shared database for discontinued programs and courses is maintained on the computer of each counselor in the counseling department. Counselors are encouraged to review the database and make appropriate course substitution determinations. ([R4.1](#))

It is the intent of the College to guide students into the appropriate courses so they will have the greatest chance for program completion. Students following programs that were discontinued or modified are urged to see an academic counselor. Counselors advise students and provide guidance on the process for making appropriate course substitutions.

A student may submit a request for course substitution if a required course is no longer offered due to curricular changes. The student works in conjunction with the counselor to complete a petition for course substitution. Successful requests for course substitution should meet the following criteria: (1) The student must be actively enrolled at American River College; (2) The course to be substituted should meet the content and outcomes of the discontinued course; (3) The course substitution request is submitted after the student has matriculated and the course being used for substitution has been approved. The petition for course substitution must be signed and approved by the department chair and the dean of the program requiring the course substitution, as well as by an academic counselor and the dean of admissions and transition services.

This course substitution policy utilized by the counseling department and communicated to students is currently under review. Once finalized, the formalized policy will be published in the 2019-2020 Catalog and on the college website.

There has been recognition that the means by which course substitution information is organized, stored, updated, and communicated needs further improvement. The College is presently investigating a software solution to improve the process for tracking discontinued courses and for communicating curriculum and scheduling information to students.

Data Trend Analysis

Annual Report Data Analysis

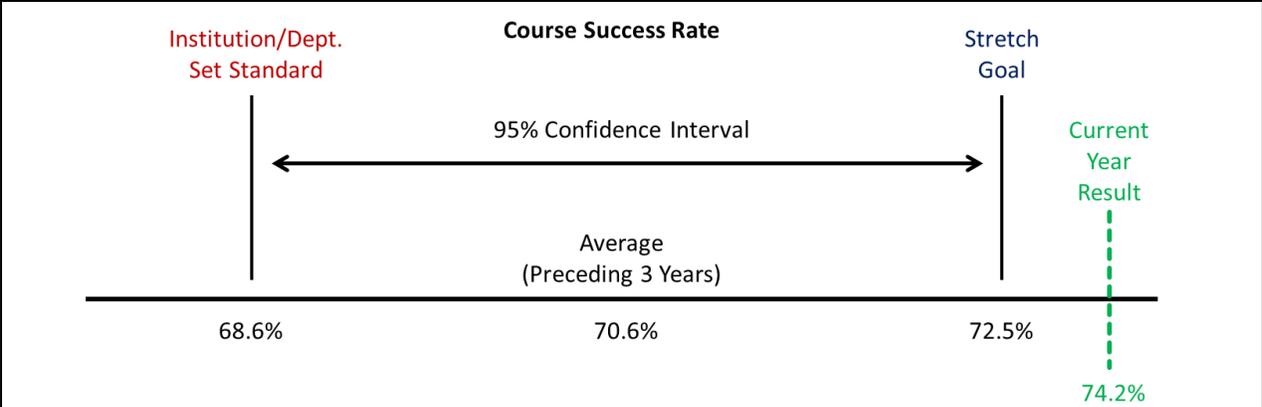
Student Course Completion

(Definition: The course completion rate is calculated based on the number of student completions with a grade of C or better divided by the number of student enrollments.)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Institution Set Standard	66.1%	69.9%	68.6%
Stretch Goal	N/A	N/A	72.5%
Actual Performance	70%	71.5%	74.2%
Difference between Performance & Set Standard	+3.9%	+1.6%	+5.6%
Difference between Performance & Stretch Goal	N/A	N/A	+1.7%

Analysis of the data:

Student course completion has increased by 4.2 percentage points over the past 3 years from 70% to 74.2%, exceeding the institution set standard each year. Stretch goals were first instituted in the most recent reporting year (2016-2017). For that year, student course completion (shown in green font) exceeded the stretch goal (see Figure below).



The increases were due in part to increased enrollment (from 1.6% share of total enrollment in 2014-15 to 11% share of total enrollment in 2016-17) and increased student course completion (from 94.8% in 2014-2015 to 97.3% in 2016-2017) in the Apprenticeship program. In addition, increased student course completion was observed in twelve additional programs, with all twelve not only exceeding the institution set standard, but also exceeding their department level stretch goals.

Going forward, student course completion is expected to increase as ARC implements its newly adopted strategic plan, which includes three major student success strategies (Start Right, IPaSS (Integrated Planning and Support for Students), and Clarify Program Paths) designed to help more students achieve their educational goals.

Methodology:

The methodology for setting institution set standards and stretch goals utilizes a 95% Confidence Interval centered on the rolling average of the preceding 3 years of student course completion data (excluding summers). The lower limit of the confidence interval serves as the institution set standard, and the upper limit of the confidence interval serves as the stretch goal. The confidence interval assumes a t distribution with 2 degrees of freedom (average +/- (standard error * 4.303)). This methodology ensures that falling below the standard or above the stretch goal is unlikely to occur due simply to random year to year variation but instead is likely to reflect an actual change (increase or decrease) in student course completion for the target year. The institution set standard and stretch goal will be recalculated annually to reflect the preceding 3 years of student course completion outcomes.

Degree Completion

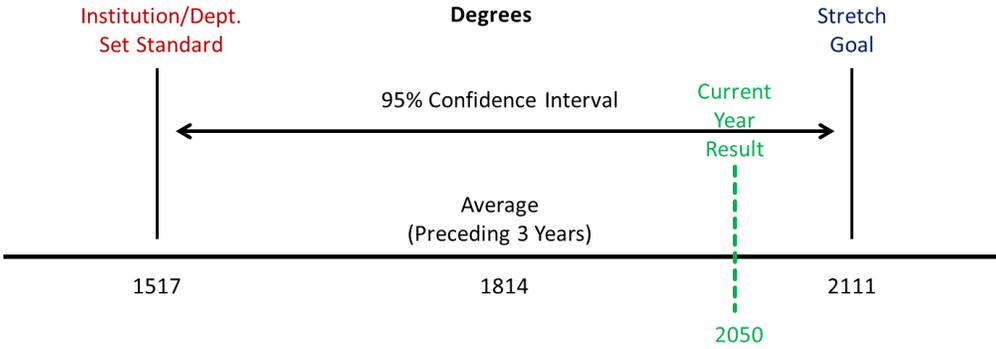
(Students who received one or more degrees may only be counted once.)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Institution Set Standard	1407	1579	1517

Stretch Goal	N/A	N/A	2111
Actual Performance	1731	1951	2050
Difference between Performance & Set Standard	+324	+372	+533
Difference between Performance & Stretch Goal	N/A	N/A	-61

Analysis of the data:

Degree completion has increased by about 18% over the past 3 years, from 1731 degrees to 2050 degrees, exceeding the institution set standard each year. Stretch goals were first instituted in the most recent reporting year (2016-2017). For that year, degree completion (shown in green font) fell short of the stretch goal by only 61 degrees (see Figure below).



Going forward, degree completion is expected to increase as more ADT degrees are created and awarded, and as ARC implements its newly adopted strategic plan, which includes three major student success strategies (Start Right, IPaSS (Integrated Planning and Support for Students), and Clarify Program Paths) designed to help more students achieve their educational goals.

Methodology:

The methodology for setting institution set standards and stretch goals utilizes a 95% Confidence Interval centered on the rolling average of the preceding 3 years of degree completion data. The lower limit of the confidence interval serves as the institution set standard, and the upper limit of the confidence interval serves as the stretch goal. The confidence interval assumes a t distribution with 2 degrees of freedom (average +/- (standard error * 4.303). This methodology ensures that falling below the standard or above the stretch goal is unlikely to occur due simply to random year to year variation but instead is likely to reflect an actual change (increase or decrease) in degree completion for the target year. The institution set standard and stretch goal will be recalculated annually to reflect the preceding 3 years of degree completion outcomes.

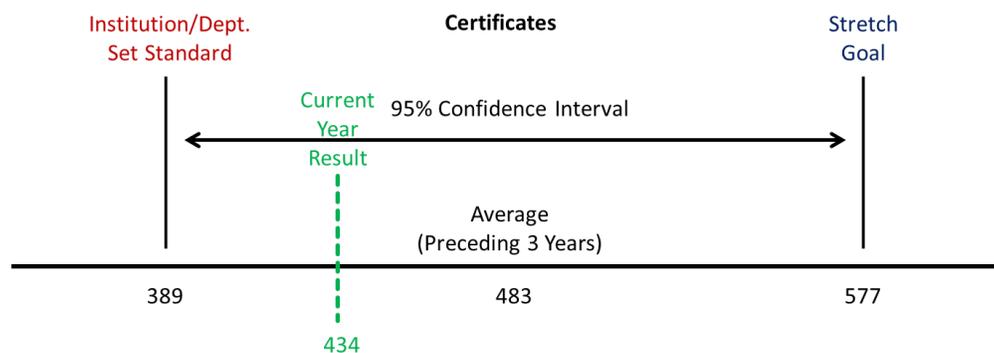
Certificate Completion

(Students who received one or more certificate may only be counted once.)

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Institution Set Standard	277	201	389
Stretch Goal	N/A	N/A	577
Actual Performance	441	514	434
Difference between Performance & Set Standard	+164	+313	+45
Difference between Performance & Stretch Goal	N/A	N/A	-143

Analysis of the data:

Certificate completion has remained stable over the past 3 years, exceeding the institution set standard each year. Stretch goals were first instituted in the most recent reporting year (2016-2017). For that year, certificate completion (shown in green font) fell short of the stretch goal by 143 certificates (see Figure below).



Going forward, certificate completion is expected to increase as ARC implements its newly adopted strategic plan, which includes three major student success strategies (Start Right, IPaSS (Integrated Planning and Support for Students), & Clarify Program Paths) designed to help more students achieve their educational goals.

Methodology:

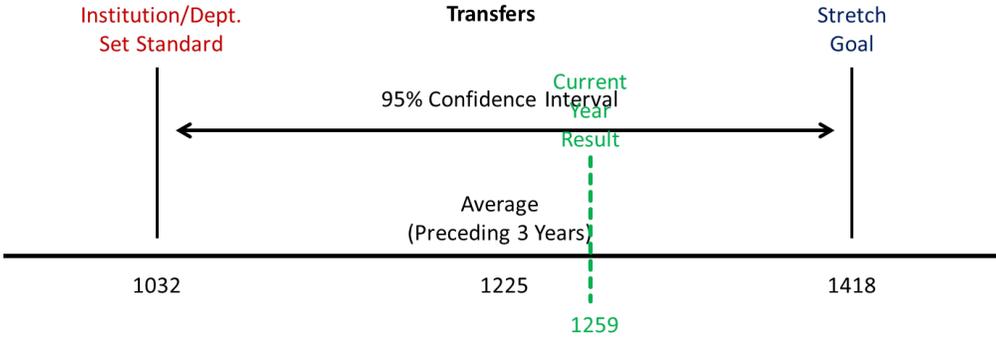
The methodology for setting institution set standards and stretch goals utilizes a 95% Confidence Interval centered on the rolling average of the preceding 3 years of certificate completion data. The lower limit of the confidence interval serves as the institution set standard, and the upper limit of the confidence interval serves as the stretch goal. The confidence interval assumes a t distribution with 2 degrees of freedom (average +/- (standard error * 4.303)). This methodology ensures that falling below the standard or above the stretch goal is unlikely to occur due simply to random year to year variation but instead is likely to reflect an actual change (increase or decrease) in certificate completion for the target year. The institution set standard and stretch goal will be recalculated annually to reflect the preceding 3 years of certificate completion outcomes.

Transfer

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Institution Set Standard	625	635	1032
Stretch Goal	N/A	N/A	1418
Actual Performance	1135	1187	1259
Difference between Performance & Set Standard	+510	+552	+227
Difference between Performance & Stretch Goal	N/A	N/A	-159

Analysis of the data:

Transfers have increased by about 10% over the past 3 years, from 1135 transfers to 1259 transfers, exceeding the institution set standard each year. Stretch goals were first instituted in the most recent reporting year (2016-2017). For that year, transfers (shown in green font) fell short of the stretch goal by 159 transfers (see Figure below).



Going forward, the number of transfers is expected to increase as more ADT degrees are created and awarded, and as ARC implements its newly adopted strategic plan, which includes three major student success strategies (Start Right, IPaSS (Integrated Planning and Support for Students), and Clarify Program Paths) designed to help more students achieve their educational goals.

Methodology:

The methodology for setting institution set standards and stretch goals utilizes a 95% Confidence Interval centered on the rolling average of the preceding 3 years of transfers. The lower limit of the confidence interval serves as the institution set standard, and the upper limit of the confidence interval serves as the stretch goal. The confidence interval assumes a t distribution with 2 degrees of freedom (average +/- (standard error * 4.303). This methodology ensures that falling below the standard or above the stretch goal is unlikely to occur due simply to random year to year variation but instead is likely to reflect an actual change (increase or decrease) in transfers for the target year. The institution set standard and stretch goal will be recalculated annually to reflect the preceding 3 years of transfer outcomes.

Student Learning Outcomes Assessment

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Number of Courses	2009	2074	2113
Number of Courses Assessed	2009	2074	2113
Number of Programs	400	410	421
Number of Programs Assessed	399	410	421
Number of Institutional Outcomes	7	7	7
Number of Outcomes Assessed	7	7	7

Analysis of the data:

The number of courses and programs offered has increased over the past 3 years. All course, program, and institutional SLOs are assessed regularly.

The documentation of SLO assessment is accomplished through a combination of oversight of appropriate SLO assessment tools and SLO language integrated into the curriculum review process, SLO mapping from courses to programs, the regular reporting of SLO assessment results through the Authentic Assessment Review Record (AARR), and the collection of student voices through focus groups and survey instruments.

Licensure Pass Rate

(Definition: The rate is determined by the number of students who passed the licensure examination divided by the number of students who took the examination.)

Program Name	Institution Set Standard	Actual Performance			Difference (Performance – Set Standard)			Stretch Goal	Difference (Performance – Stretch Goal)		
		14-15	15-16	16-17	14-15	15-16	16-17		14-15	15-16	16-17
Funeral Services	60%	94%	92%	81%	+34%	+32%	+21%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Paramedic	70%	100%	100%	100%	+30%	+30%	+30%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Respiratory Care	70%	100%	92%	100%	+30%	+22%	+30%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nursing	75%	86%	94%	94%	+11%	+19%	+19%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Analysis of the data:											
All programs have consistently exceeded their institution set standards. Stretch goals for licensure pass rates will be developed in spring 2019.											

Job Placement Rate

(Definition: The placement rate is determined by the number of students employed in the year following graduation divided by the number of students who completed the program.)

Program Name	Institution Set Standard	Actual Performance			Difference (Performance – Set Standard)			Stretch Goal	Difference (Performance – Stretch Goal)		
		14-15	15-16	16-17	14-15	15-16	16-17		14-15	15-16	16-17
Accounting	47%	76%	79%	83%	+29%	+32%	+36%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Administration of Justice	78%	95%	96%	96%	+17%	+18%	+18%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Art New Media	53%	71%	75%	69%	+18%	+22%	+16%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Automotive Collision Technology	45%	70%	61%	73%	+25%	+16%	+28%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Automotive Technology	56%	64%	66%	74%	+8%	+10%	+18%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Business Technology	51%	62%	69%	55%	+11%	+18%	+4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carpenter Apprenticeship	75%	100%	100%	100%	+25%	+25%	+25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CIS: Computer Networking Management	44%	74%	86%	95%	+30%	+42%	+51%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CIS: Microcomputer Applications	32%	62%	79%	83%	+30%	+47%	+51%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

CIS: PC Support	31%	50%	75%	61%	+19%	+44%	+30%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CIS: Programming	3%	60%	68%	54%	+57%	+65%	+51%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
CIS: Web Developer	46%	67%	73%	59%	+21%	+27%	+13%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial Music	45%	75%	67%	73%	+30%	+22%	+28%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Design Technology	51%	63%	75%	71%	+12%	+24%	+20%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Diesel Technology	59%	71%	65%	76%	+12%	+6%	+17%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drywall/Lathing Apprenticeship	75%	100%	100%	100%	+25%	+25%	+25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Early Childhood Education	47%	66%	75%	74%	+19%	+28%	+27%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Electronic	36%	58%	73%	72%	+22%	+37%	+36%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Environmental Conservation	46%	71%	58%	80%	+25%	+12%	+34%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fashion	59%	62%	65%	55%	+3%	+6%	-4%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fire Technology	78%	95%	88%	79%	+17%	+10%	+1%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Funeral Service Education	56%	79%	94%	89%	+23%	+38%	+33%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
General Business	45%	63%	70%	75%	+18%	+25%	+30%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	60%	76%	75%	91%	+16%	+15%	+31%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gerontology	17%	65%	77%	56%	+48%	+60%	+39%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hospitality Management: Baking	52%	63%	63%	74%	+11%	+11%	+22%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hospitality Management: Culinary Arts/Restaurant	31%	80%	86%	68%	+49%	+55%	+37%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Human Services	39%	48%	60%	62%	+9%	+21%	+23%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Interior Design	35%	58%	69%	68%	+23%	+34%	+33%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legal Assisting	47%	71%	78%	67%	+24%	+31%	+20%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Management	27%	50%	74%	65%	+23%	+47%	+38%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nursing	44%	82%	92%	90%	+38%	+48%	+46%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Real Estate	46%	53%	50%	61%	+7%	+4%	+15%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Respiratory Care	74%	85%	100%	77%	+11%	+26%	+3%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sign Language Studies: Interpreter Training	73%	84%	100%	100%	+11%	+27%	+27%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Speech Language Pathology Assistant Training	55%	73%	95%	88%	+18%	+40%	+33%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Welding Technology	50%	67%	87%	83%	+17%	+37%	+33%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Analysis of the data:

Nearly all programs exceeded their institution set standards for job placement rates. These rates were sourced from the California Community College’s Chancellor’s Office Perkins IV Core Indicator Report website.

Methodology:

The methodology for setting institution set standards utilizes a 95% Confidence Interval centered on the rolling average of the preceding 3 years of job placement rates. The lower limit of the confidence interval serves as the institution set standard. The confidence interval assumes a t distribution with 2 degrees of freedom (average +/- (standard error * 4.303). This methodology ensures that falling below the standard is unlikely to occur due simply to random year to year variation but instead is likely to reflect an actual decrease in job placement rates for the target year. An exception is made for programs with zero variability (e.g., 100% job placement in each year). For those programs, the institution set standard was set at the average of actual performance minus 25%). The institution set standard will be recalculated annually to reflect the preceding 3 years of job placement rates.

Stretch goals are expected to be instituted for the first time in spring 2019. The upper limit of the 95% Confidence Interval is expected to serve as the Stretch Goal.

Annual Fiscal Report Data Analysis

General Fund Performance

	2016	2017	2018
Revenue	\$346,201,354	\$331,965,562	\$347,975,390
Expenditures	\$329,622,399	\$323,592,800	\$353,999,378
Expenditures for Salaries and Benefits	\$267,866,857	\$276,448,045	\$287,436,211
Surplus/Deficit	\$16,578,955	\$8,372,762	(\$6,023,988)
Surplus/Deficit as % Revenues (Net Operating Revenue Ratio)	4.8%	2.5%	-1.7%
Reserve (Primary Reserve Ratio)	15.6%	18.5%	15.2%

Analysis of the data:

2018 Unrestricted General Fund Revenues increased by \$16M, offset by an increase in expenditures of \$30.4M. This is mainly the result of increases in Salaries and Benefits from both mandatory and discretionary salary improvements, coupled with increasing employer pension contributions required by PERS and STRS. The surpluses generated in 2016 and 2017 were also due to an influx of one-time funding dollars that were recognized as revenues in those years but spent in the subsequent period, resulting in the observed 2018 general fund deficit. Our Primary Reserve Ratio remains robust and reflective of the District’s focus on prudent fiscal management.

Other Post-Employment Benefits

	2016	2017	2018
Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) for OPEB	\$77,820,930	\$100,810,484	\$107,057,954
Funded Ratio	135%	108%	109%
Annual Required Contribution	0	0	0
Amount of Contribution	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000
Analysis of the data:			
<p>The District's OPEB plan remains in an overfunded status. The increase in the AAL and corresponding decrease in the funded ratio, beginning in 2017, is primarily due to a Board approved increase to the District's retiree medical premium benefit. Effective July 1, 2017 the monthly benefit was increased from \$256 to \$280. The District's OPEB plan remains in an overfunded status and any additional increases will be carefully considered to ensure that the plan remains fully funded.</p>			

Enrollment

	2016	2017	2018
Actual Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment (FTES)	47,779	52,640	44,353
Analysis of the data:			
<p>Similar to other Districts within the California Community College System, we have been experiencing flat and declining enrollment over the last few years. The increase in FTES for 2017 was due to allocating more Summer FTES to that year in order to capture available growth funding. Although we will continue to focus on outreach efforts to stabilize and grow our enrollment, our analysis indicates that any decrease in our FTES derived funding will be fully offset by an increase in the Supplemental and Student Success Incentive Allocations under the new funding formula for California Community Colleges.</p>			

Financial Aid

	2013	2014	2015
USED Official Cohort Student Loan Default Rate (FSLD - 3 year rate)			
ARC	26%	25%	23%
CRC	25%	18%	23%
SCC	23%	20%	22%
FLC	24%	19%	16%

Analysis of the data:

American River College was impacted by the Department of Education's directive to increase the timeframe for the cohort default rate measurement period from a two-year evaluation to a three-year evaluation. During this same timeframe, the economic downturn in California added to the struggle for American River College students to repay student loans. The College noted these congruent factors' impact on the institution's cohort default rate and took steps to improve student repayment percentages. First, the College contracted with a third-party servicer to provide financial literacy information to students, provided skip tracing support, and to deliver student delinquency counseling that assisted students to maintain or restore good standing using various repayment options. Second, the college implemented the annual option for the Master Promissory Note which required students to explore their student debt profile on an annual basis and agree to provide payment for all student loan debt. Third, ahead of the initiation of compliance requirements with the Department of Education, the College provided all financial aid students with the education program shopping sheet and provided gainful employment data for non-degree vocational program to ensure students were making educated decisions regarding their chosen program of study and their student debt profile.

After these initial steps, the College proceeded to enter a contract with Parker Pierson consulting which provided a multi-year default management plan for working with our students. Based upon information garnered from Parker Pierson, the institution changed third-party servicers to enhance outreach campaigns to student borrowers. In addition, Parker Pierson provided a California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office certified debt management and financial literacy program that eliminated student barriers to information often associated with third-party servicer platforms. Since the implementation of these default prevention efforts, the College as seen the steady decrease of the student loan cohort default rate. The initial efforts reduced the annual three-year default rate by 6%, and efforts since that time have yielded more robust results.

Appendix: Evidence

Response to Self-Identified Improvement Plans

- IP1.1 [Planning Coordination Council – Examining ARC Governance Structure](#)
- IP1.2 [Planning Coordination Council Agenda 12-7-15](#)
- IP1.3 [ARC Governance website](#)
- IP1.4 [ARC Participatory Governance and Integrated Strategic Planning Framework](#)
- IP1.5 [Integrated Planning Improvement project team charter](#)
- IP1.6 [Integrated Planning Guide](#)

- IP2.1 [Focus groups – Students’ earliest experiences at the college](#)
- IP2.2 [Student focus groups summary](#)
- IP2.3 [Achieve@ARC website](#)
- IP2.4 [SLO Assessment Committee meeting minutes 1-25-18](#)
- IP2.5 [SLO Assessment Committee meeting minutes 3-21-18](#)
- IP2.6 [Foster Youth Focus Group Report](#)

- IP3.1 [SLO Assessment Committee update 5-2-18](#)
- IP3.2 [SLO Assessment Committee meeting minutes 9-26-18](#)
- IP3.3 [Academic Senate meeting minutes 10-11-18](#)

- IP4.1 [SLO Assessment Committee Handbook](#)

- IP5.1 [ESL Assessment validation probationary approval](#)

- IP6.1 [Governance training agenda for notetakers](#)
- IP6.2 [Governance training agenda for council chairs and project team leads](#)
- IP6.3 [Governance training agenda for all members](#)

Response to Team Recommendations for Improvement

- R2.1 [Planning Coordination Council – Examining ARC Governance Structure](#)
- R2.2 [Planning Coordination Council Agenda 12-7-15 – Governance Task Force](#)
- R2.3 [ARC Governance Task Force Project Kickoff Meeting Agenda](#)

- R2.4 [ARC Participatory Governance and Integrated Strategic Planning Framework](#)
- R2.5 [Planning Coordination Council Agenda 10-02-17](#)
- R2.6 [ARC Governance website](#)
- R2.7 [Student Success Council Charter](#)
- R2.8 [Institutional Effectiveness Council Charter](#)
- R2.9 [Operations Council Charter](#)
- R2.10 [Institutional Governance Online Repository \(IGOR\) website](#)

- R3.1 [ARC Redesign website](#)
- R3.2 [Integrated Planning Portal website](#)
- R3.3 [Quality Enhancement Support Team \(QuEST\) training](#)
- R3.4 [Equity Action Institute data set](#)

- R4.1 [Course substitution spreadsheet](#)