



Student Achievement Indicators Progress Report: Year 1

Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Academics

Introduction: Charting the Viking Way

Charting the Viking Way is Del Mar College's five-year strategic plan for 2024-2029, designed to serve as a roadmap for achieving institutional excellence, advancing student success, and strengthening the College's role in the Coastal Bend community. The plan provides a unified framework that aligns mission, vision, and values with measurable goals and actions ensuring that every initiative undertaken by the College contributes to its long-term purpose and impact.

At the heart of this plan are several key components that define its structure and direction:

- Vision – What Del Mar College aspires to achieve.
- Mission – The purpose that guides the College's daily work.
- Values – The standards that shape decisions, behavior, and culture.
- Guiding Stars – The foundational pillars that organize the plan's priorities.
- Overarching Goals – The long-term outcomes the College is committed to realizing.
- Strategies – The concrete actions and initiatives designed to advance those goals.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) – The data and metrics that track progress and ensure accountability.

Together, these elements provide both inspiration and structure, allowing Del Mar College to measure success, identify opportunities for improvement, and remain responsive to the needs of students and the community it serves.

Vision Statement

Del Mar College empowers our communities to achieve their dreams.

Mission Statement

Del Mar College provides educational pathways that transform lives, build partnerships, and enrich communities.

Values

- Integrity – Operating with openness and honesty in all endeavors at the College.
- Community – The people we commit to serving through access and equity.
- Courage – The willingness to take on challenges and overcome barriers.
- Empathy – To respect and honor the experience of others.
- Resourcefulness – Using all that we have and committing all that we are to ensure student success.
- Tradition – The shared legacy of the people at Del Mar College who have learned, taught, and charted *The Viking Way*.

Guiding Stars and Goals

The *Charting the Viking Way* plan is anchored in three Guiding Stars, each representing a central area of focus that advances the College's mission and vision. Please note that not all of the Guiding Stars include Student Achievement Indicators.

- Guiding Star I: Communicate
 - Goal 1: Collaborate across the College
 - *No Student Achievement Indicators included.*
 - Goal 2: Connect beyond the College
 - *No Student Achievement Indicators included.*
- Guiding Star II: Elevate
 - Goal 1: Increase completion for all students
 - Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College
- Guiding Star III: Cultivate
 - Goal 1: Nurture our employees to achieve their full potential
 - *No Student Achievement Indicators included.*
 - Goal 2: Optimize the Viking Student Experience

Report Components

- Goals: Broad priority areas. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) have been identified for each of the Strategic Plan Goals.
- Student Achievement Indicators: Describe how the College measures progress toward meeting its goals.
 - Thresholds are expectations set by the College to define its own minimum acceptable level of achievement.
 - Targets are the College's expectations for improvement; aspirational targets that define what the College intends to achieve.
- Data Findings: Displays data to show how the College is performing for each Student Achievement Indicator including if the indicator met or exceeded the Threshold and Target for the year.
- Analysis of Results: Describes Data Findings, including change over time and comparisons when appropriate.
- Use of Results for Improvement: Describes the actions and activities that the College implemented to reach the Thresholds and Targets as well as the plan for the future in order to achieve continuous improvement.

Guiding Star I: Communicate

Purpose: Strengthen internal and external communications to support collaboration and engagement.

Goal 1: Collaborate across the College

No Student Achievement Indicators are included in this goal.

Goal 2: Connect beyond the College

No Student Achievement Indicators are included in this goal.

Guiding Star II: Elevate

Purpose: Enhance student success, program quality, and the effective use of institutional resources.

Goal 1: Increase completion for all students

Student Achievement Indicator #1: Number of degrees, certificates, and awards completed

Includes all degrees, certificates, and awards completed in academic year.

Data Source: THECB Accountability System.

Degrees, Certificates, and Awards Completed					
	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent Change	Threshold	Target
Del Mar College	1,938	2,289	18%	3%	5%
TX Large Colleges Cohort	17,151	17,866	4%		

Analysis of results: The number of degrees, certificates, and awards completed in 2024 surpassed the threshold by 15 percentage points and surpassed the target by 13 percentage points. Additionally, the College's growth for 2024-2025 for this Student Achievement Indicator eclipsed the Texas Large College Cohort by 14 percentage points.

Use of results for improvement: The exceptional growth in the number of degrees, certificates, and awards completed is largely contributed to College's addition of short-term awards called Occupational Skills Awards. These awards are the first step in the many suites of stackable awards that culminate in either an Associate of Applied Science Degree or one of the College's two bachelor's degrees. Should the rate of student achievement outpace the College's targets to this extent over consecutive years, the College will re-evaluate and increase the targets and thresholds for this measure.

Student Achievement Indicator # 2: Number of students completing 15 semester credit hours in a dual credit coursework

Total number of students enrolled in dual credit coursework who reach or exceed the 15-semester credit hour threshold. Data Source: Del Mar College Institutional Research and Analytics.

Students Completing 15 SCH in Dual Credit Coursework					
	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent Change	Threshold	Target
Del Mar College	891	2,289	18%	3%	5%

Analysis of results: The number of students completing 15 semester credit hours in dual credit coursework grew 35% from 2024 to 2025, which far exceeded the target of a three percent increase.

Use of results for improvement: In the 2024-2025 academic year, Del Mar College’s Dual Credit programming experienced rapid and record-setting growth. As a result, the growth for this student achievement indicator was unprecedented. Again, should the actual rate of student achievement outpace the College’s targets to this degree over consecutive years, the College will re-evaluate and increase the targets and thresholds for this measure.

Goal 2: Maximize resources entrusted to the College

Student Achievement Indicator #3: Number of transition students matriculating to credit programs

Total number of students who enrolled in Continuing Education coursework who then enroll in credit programs. Data Source: Del Mar College Institutional Research and Analytics.

Transition Students Matriculating to Credit Programs					
	2023-2024	2024-2025	Amount Change	Threshold	Target
Del Mar College	1,274	1,364	90	Maintain	+200

Analysis of results. Transition students are students who matriculate from non-credit to credit programs. Between 2024 and 2025, the number of transition students increased by 90 students, which fell below the targeted increase of 200 students. Similar data is not collected on the state-level, which means comparable data for the Texas Large College Cohort is not available.

Use of results for improvement. In order to improve the rate at which students transition from non-credit to credit programs, the College has begun focusing on providing more support to students enrolled in non-credit programs in order to help them to select and pursue their ideal credit pathway. Efforts have included inviting faculty from credit programs to speak to students enrolled in courses in non-credit programs to discuss students' opportunities in credit programs. Additionally, students enrolled in the College's High School Equivalency programs take career assessments to help them discover their ideal career.

Guiding Star III: Cultivate

Purpose: Foster a supportive culture for students, faculty, and staff that promotes engagement, belonging, and growth.

Goal 1: Nurture our employees to achieve their full potential

No Student Achievement Indicators are included in this goal.

Goal 2: Optimize the Viking Student Experience

Student Achievement Indicator #4: Fall-to-fall persistence rate

One-year persistence rates for first-time, degree-seeking undergraduate students who enroll in at least 12 semester credit hours in the fall semester who then enroll at the same or another Texas institution the following fall semester. Data Source: THECB Accountability System.

Fall-to-Fall Persistence					
	2023-2024	2024-2025	Amount Change	Threshold	Target
Del Mar College	58.7%	70.4%	11.7%	Maintain	60%
TX Large Colleges Cohort	65.4%	68.4%	3%		

Analysis of Results. The change in fall-to-fall persistence from 2024 to 2025 was nearly a 12- percentage point increase from 58.7% to 70.4%. This rate surpassed the Texas Large Colleges Cohort fall-to-fall persistence rate, which was 68.4%, the 2025 target, which was 60%, and even the 2029 target, which was 70%.

Use of results for improvement. The increase of the fall-to-fall persistence rate for 2025 was larger than anticipated as reflected by how far students outpaced the targets set for this strategic planning cycle. Should the persistence rate continue to outpace the targets over consecutive years, the College will re-evaluate the targets and thresholds for this measure.

Student Experience Student Achievement Indicator #5: Graduation rate

The final Student Achievement Indicator for the 2024-2029 strategic planning cycle is graduation rate. This indicator was not included in the strategic plan as a key performance indicator, but it is included in all Student Achievement reporting.

Percentage of first-time, full-time entering degree-seeking students who enrolled in a minimum of 12 semester credit hours in their first fall semester who graduated from the same or another Texas public or independent institution within three years. Academically disadvantaged applies to any student who placed into developmental education in either math, reading, and writing. Economically disadvantaged applies to students who report annual income below the federal poverty line, qualify for public assistance, or receive a Pell Grant. Data Source: THECB Accountability System; Del Mar College Office of Institutional Research and Analytics.

Three-Year Graduation Rate					
	2023-2024	2024-2025	Amount Change	Threshold	Target
Del Mar College All Students	18.6%	18.6%	0 pt.	18%	19.5%
TX Large Colleges Cohort	25.9%	30.5%	4.6 pts.		
Del Mar College Academically Disadvantaged	16.7%	15.1%	-1.6 pts.	18%	19.5%
TX Large Colleges Cohort	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data unavailable		
Del Mar College Economically Disadvantaged	17.2%	14.9%	-2.3 pts.	18%	19.5%
TX Large Colleges Cohort	Data unavailable	Data unavailable	Data unavailable		

Analysis of results. Although the three-year graduation rate for the All Student group had been steadily increasing since 2021, the trend did not remain for 2025. The three-year graduation rate for the All Students group did not change from the previous year. Additionally, the rate for the Academically Disadvantaged student group fell by 1.6 percentage points and the rate for the Economically Disadvantaged student group fell by 2.3 percentage points.

Neither group achieved the target for 2025, and only the All Students group hit the threshold for the year.

The three-year graduation rate is determined by students who are first-time in college (FTIC) and who are enrolled in at least 12 semester credit hours. Similarly, the fall-to-fall persistence rate includes only FTIC students who are enrolled in at least 12 semester credit hours. The unprecedented increase in persistence of students from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024 indicates that an increase to the three-year graduation rate is likely to follow in 2026.

Use of results for improvement. Despite the optimism that the higher-than-expected fall-to-fall persistence rates will result in an increased three-year graduation rate, the College is still implementing efforts to support the academically disadvantaged and economically disadvantaged student groups. Specifically, the Freedom to Dream tuition waiver program has been established to alleviate the financial burden so that students can complete an award, certificate, or degree. As the College prepares for the second cohort of Freedom to Dream students who will begin in the Fall 2026 semester, the College will also be identifying student support efforts from the tuition waiver program that can be scaled to serve all students.