

DEFINING STUDENT SUCCESS AT SKYLINE COLLEGE

At Skyline College, we value *students' success* in achieving their goals, and strengthening their voices as they transform their lives through their educational experience. As an institution, we define *student success* as students' achievement of their educational goals. We operationalize our definition of student success across four key indicators:

- **Academic Achievement:** the extent to which students demonstrate satisfactory or above satisfactory academic performance as measured through successful course completion.
- **Student Persistence (semester-to-semester):** the rate at which students persist to the subsequent semester, based on their educational goals.
- **Degree and Certificate Completion:** The rate at which students complete their programs of study and achieve the educational attainment goals they set out to achieve.
- **Transfer Achievement:** The rate at which students who indicate transfer as an educational goal are able to achieve transfer.

In addition to the indicators identified above, student success entails a myriad of less tangible outcomes that are more difficult to define or measure. For example, holistic learning and development as an indicator of student success may include, inter alia, the ability to strive for deeper understanding, build communication skills, think critically, and be civically engaged. The Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs) identified in the [Skyline College SLOAC Framework](#) provide one approach for assessing some of the fundamental holistic learning and development outcomes that are typically associated with student success.

REFERENCES

- Advancing Student Success in the California Community Colleges: Recommendations of the California Community Colleges Student Success Task Force*. Report. January 17, 2012. pg. 8. Accessed January 22, 2016. http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/Portals/0/Executive/StudentSuccessTaskForce/SS_TF_Final_Report_1-17-12_Print.pdf.
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- The Skyline College SLOAC Framework: An Implementation Guide for the Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment Cycle (Version Three)*. Report. 2013. pg. 26-27. Accessed January 22, 2016. http://www.skylinecollege.edu/sloac/assets/documents/framework_version_three_a.pdf.