SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

**PROGRESS REPORT
FEBRUARY 2020**

Guided Pathways

Creating a Clear Path to Student Success

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

South Texas College has been actively supporting student success through the implementation of Guided Pathways. In 2016, South Texas College joined *Texas Pathways*, led by the Texas Success Center, as part of the first cadre of 12 leader, community colleges. *Texas Pathways* is a statewide strategy focused on building capacity for community colleges to design and implement structured academic and career pathways, at scale, for all students. It is a multiple year project that supports all 50 Texas community colleges and is closely based on the national *Pathways Project* led by the American Association of Community Colleges. *Texas Pathways* is designed to contribute to the goals set forth by the *60x30TX* higher education strategic plan.

GUIDED PATHWAYS ESSENTIAL PRACTICES

The Pathways model is built on the following essential practices and requires redesigning educational processes with student end goals for further education and careers in mind.

1	2	3	4
Clarify paths to student end goals	Help students choose and enter a pathway	Help students stay on a path	Ensure that students are learning

MILESTONES

Improving Completion & Student Success

South Texas College has played an important role in key national and state initiatives designed to improve completion and student success. The graphic below provides a historical review of milestone initiatives at the national and state levels that have impacted community colleges.

1990	2004	2012	2012	2015	2016
Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act	**Achieving the Dream**	***Reclaiming the American Dream***	**Texas Completes**	***Redesigning America's Community Colleges***	**Texas Pathways Project**
United States Department of Education	STC joined Achieving the Dream National Initiative	Report by American Association of Community Colleges	STC selected as one of the 5 major colleges to participate in this initiative	Book based on data from Community College Research Center	STC selected to participate as a Cadre 1 institution
Requires institutions eligible for Title IV funding to disclose graduation rates to all students and prospective students	**Proven model that helps colleges identify emerging needs and ways to improve practices that lead to improved student outcomes**	**Strategies grounded in "Three Rs" (1) Redesign students' educational experiences, (2) Reinvent institutional roles, (3) Reset the system to create incentives for success**	**Network of colleges working toward improvements in three priority areas: (1) Completion, (2) Seamless transfer, and (3) Entry into the workforce**	**Diagnoses the limitations of existing community college reforms and outlines a proposal for dramatic change**	**To help students to choose, enter, and complete a program of study that is aligned with their educational and career goals**

WHY GUIDED PATHWAYS

Research conducted over the past 20 years by the Community College Research Center is the foundation for transformative recommendations outlined in *Redesigning America's Community Colleges.* The authors of this evidence-based book advocate "guided pathways" to address the challenges community colleges encounter.

GUIDED PATHWAYS

In line with the four essential practices, STC has launched the following institutional processes to implement guided pathways.

1
- Meta-majors
- Curriculum maps

2
- Recommended course sequences
- Mandatory advising

3
- Early Alert System

4
- Taskforces focused on Core Objectives and Learning Outcomes Assessments

CHALLENGES

- A disorganized array of choices
- Exploring different programs without guidance
- Taking too many classes
- Not enrolling in the right courses
- Withdrawing or repeating courses

OUTCOMES
Students are…

- Accumulating excess credits
- Spending too much money
- Not earning credentials
- Not graduating on time

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

South Texas College Key Performance Indicators tracked as part of the Texas Pathways Project are listed below. The College has improved its performance in all three indicators over the past several years. The data indicates that STC has out performed in each category compared to the State of Texas average.

## AVERAGE ATTEMPTED CREDIT HOURS

Students earning associate degrees
Average attempted credit hours decreased from 82 to 72 credit hours since 2015

82

81

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77

2015   2017   2018

Reduction of
5
Credit Hours

2018

**State
Average
84**
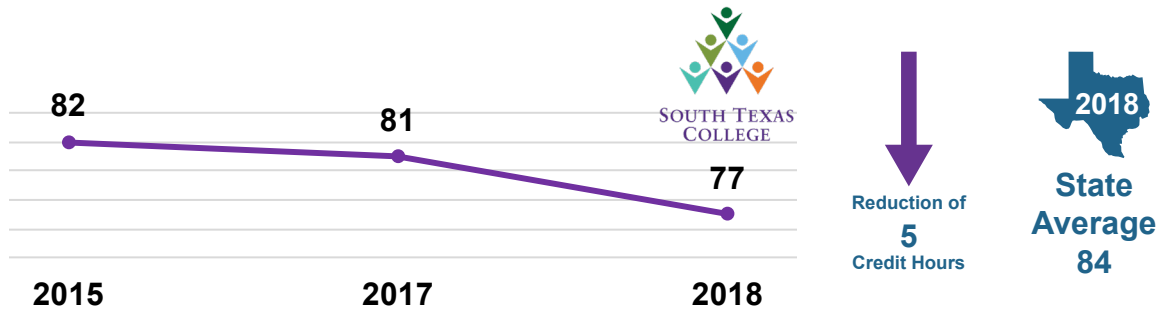
AVERAGE TIME TO DEGREE

Years to earn an associate degree
Average time to degree has decreased from 4 years to 3.8 years since 2015

4

4

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3.8

2015   2017   2018

Reduction of
0.2
Years

2018

**State
Average
4**
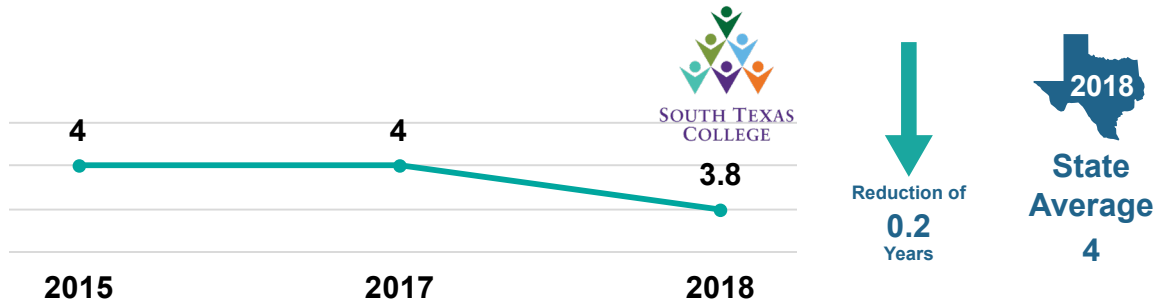
GRADUATION RATE (3 YEAR RATE)

Years to earn an associate degree
On time graduation rate has increased from 19% to 29.30% since 2015

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29.30%

24%

19%

2015   2017   2018

Increase of
10.3%
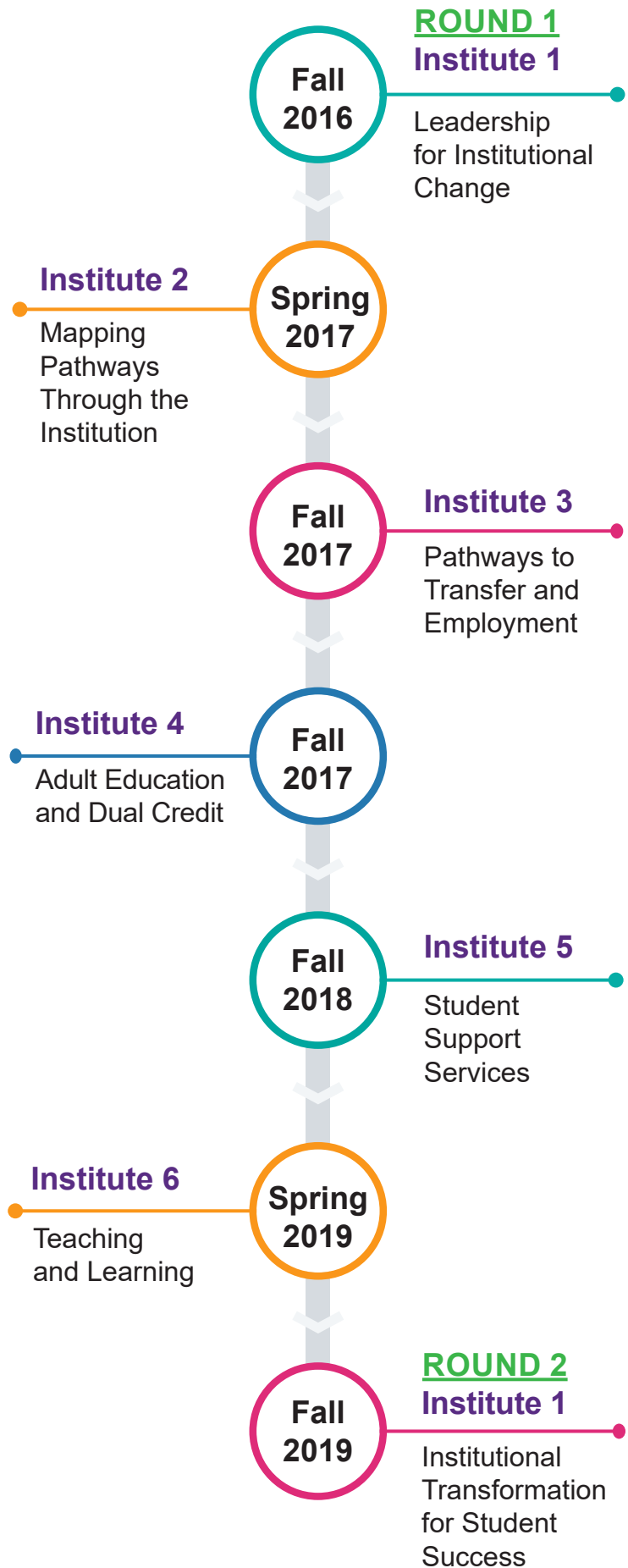
2018

**State
Average
23.3%**
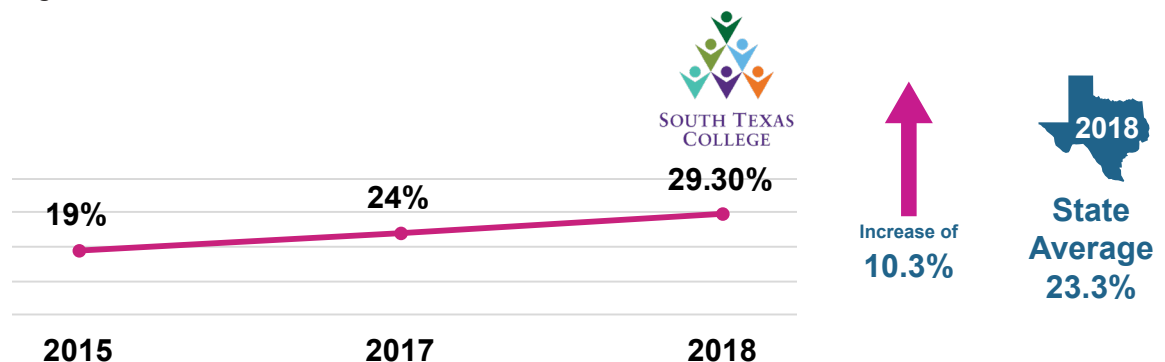
TEXAS PATHWAYS INSTITUTES

South Texas College has participated in a series of institutes that assist community colleges to design and implement clear, structured student pathways to high-quality credentials that are aligned to high school endorsements, university transfer, and jobs with value in the labor market.

Each Texas Pathways Institute is two and a half days in length focused on a critical aspect of institutional change and pathway design and implementation, each required advance work by the colleges, and each resulted in products developed by the participating college teams, including action plans. The institute format combines discussions with experts, technical assistance, and facilitated discussion and planning sessions for college teams.

Round 1 of the Pathways project included participation in 6 institutes which began in Fall 2016 and ended during Spring 2019.

Round 2, also consisting of 6 institutes, began in Fall 2019 and is expected to end in Spring 2022.

Fall 2016

ROUND 1
Institute 1
Leadership for Institutional Change

Institute 2
Mapping Pathways Through the Institution

Spring 2017

Fall 2017

Institute 3
Pathways to Transfer and Employment

Institute 4
Adult Education and Dual Credit

Fall 2017

Fall 2018

Institute 5
Student Support Services

Institute 6
Teaching and Learning

Spring 2019

Fall 2019

ROUND 2
Institute 1
Institutional Transformation for Student Success

GUIDED PATHWAYS PROGRESS REPORT
ESSENTIAL PRACTICES

	Completed 2017-2019	**In Progress** 2019-2020	**Planned** 2020-2022
① Mapping pathways to student end goals	• Developed Curriculum Maps for each program, determining □ Course Sequence and the "right" math for each cluster (Spring 2017) • Developed Pathway Plans to link High School Endorsements to STC Meta-Majors (Spring 2018) • Developed Meta-Majors approved by the College Wide Curriculum Committee (May 3, 2018)	• Continue updating the Backward Transfer Maps for all top transfer universities (UTRGV, TAMUK, etc.) • Continue to build and strengthen existing university relationships • Finalizing Dual Credit pathways maps connecting DC courses to HS endorsement (Spring 2020)	• Develop online platform to showcase Pathways Backward Transfer Maps for top universities (2020-2021) • Clarify pathways from CE to credit programs (2021-2022)
② Helping students chose and enter a program pathway	• Developed Mandatory Advising for FTIC (Spring 2017) • Organized over 100 programs into 10 Meta-Majors (2018) • Implemented co-requisite remedial model (2018)	• Exploring New Student Orientation options for non-FTIC students • Conducting student and advisor focus groups to gather feedback on the student experience after program enrollment begins • Developing co-req professional development for faculty (2020-2021)	• Develop the Final Plan to incorporate EDUC 1300 into degree plan hours for FTIC students (2021) • Re-design College webpages to align with Meta-Majors
③ Keeping students on path	• Implemented Early Alert System (2017) • Established the Financial Literacy Program at the College (as part of the HSI grant 2019) • Established procedures to provide credit for prior learning (2019) • Selected the QEP topic: My Advising Plan (2019) • Developed several process maps of student experience at STC (2018-2019)	• Expanding the Starfish activities for targeted populations • Expanding the Financial Literacy Program • Developing the operational plan for the QEP "My Advising Plan"	• Integrate the utilization of Early Alert System into all student support services (2020-2021) • Identify program specific "critical courses" and direct resources to respective student success initiatives (2020)
④ Ensuring students are learning	• Established FOCUS Academy for Full Time and Part Time Faculty (2017-2019) • Established Taskforces focused on Core Objectives & Learning Outcomes Assessments • Developed the online teaching academy Spark (2019) • Selected (as 1 out of 20 in the nation) to participate in "Strengthening the Guided Pathways" • Earned ACEN Accreditation of ADN Program	• Conducting an inventory of existing capstone experiences by program and building experiences in all programs (by Dec. 2019) • Developing a formalized professional development plan for faculty around high impacts practices • Hosting the first Data Summit (February 2020) • Finalizing NACEP Accreditation of Dual Credit Programs	• Institutionalize the Annual Data Summit • Create an equity scorecard that includes metrics and benchmarks (Fall 2020)

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

South Texas College is an equal education and equal employment opportunity/affirmative action employer. As an equal education institution and equal opportunity employer, the College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. Discrimination is prohibited and the College will comply with all applicable College policies, and state and federal legislation. This statement extends to individuals seeking employment with and admission to the College.

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

South Texas College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the Baccalaureate and Associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of South Texas College.

February 2020
OVPAA / LA-MG