

Des Moines Area Community College Annual Peer Colleges Summary, Spring 2023

Des Moines Area Community College is committed to our mission, vision and values for the benefit of our students, staff and community. In order to keep the institution healthy and in a state of continuous improvement, DMACC has identified a set of peers for benchmarking of institutional performance and comparative analysis. A shared governance process was used to agree on the methodology and compile this list for the institution in Summer 2022. This set of peers will be re-evaluated every 5 years in order to maintain currency.

Peer Group

1. Community College of Baltimore County
2. Des Moines Area Community College
3. Front Range Community College
4. Johnson County Community College
5. Kirkwood Community College
6. Metropolitan Community College Area – Nebraska
7. Metropolitan Community College – Kansas City
8. Salt Lake Community College
9. South Orange County Community College District
10. St Louis Community College
11. Suffolk County Community College
12. Wake Technical Community College



Mission, Vision & Values

Mission:

DMACC provides quality, affordable, student-centered education and training to empower our diverse communities and to serve as a catalyst for economic development.

Vision:

Improving quality of life, supporting our communities, and cultivating a prosperous Iowa.

Values:

Accessible Learning: DMACC provides accessible and affordable life-long learning opportunities.

Diversity & Inclusion: DMACC embraces the differences of individuals, champions mutual respect, and provides enriching environments for growth and understanding.

Quality & Excellence: DMACC delivers high-quality instruction and services utilizing standards of excellence, ethics, and professionalism.

Service: DMACC educates, supports, and provides resources to develop skills and talent for a competitive workforce.

Engagement: DMACC fosters partnerships in and with the communities we serve.

The Data

All data in this annual report was obtained from the US Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. All colleges and universities in the United States who receive public funds either directly or through student financial aid must submit their data to this system through the annual Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) reports.¹ College Navigator is a tool published by the US Department of Education that pulls data from IPEDS and makes comparisons easier for those unfamiliar with the IPEDS data reporting structure.² The structured data definitions³ set by the US Department of Education allow for institutions to confidently compare and benchmark themselves against others.

Fall Enrollment

DMACC had the fifth largest enrollment among its peer group. The data below shows enrollment numbers averaged over 5⁴ years, including all students enrolled in for-credit courses, including high school students, guest students, and those pursuing a degree or certificate. It excludes non-credit enrollment. DMACC's enrollment declined from the previous year. Enrollment at all DMACC peers also declined by similar rates leaving all institutions in the same position when compared to peers.

| Institution Name | 5-Year Enrollment Average |
|--|----------------------------------|
| South Orange County Community College District | 31,558 |
| Salt Lake Community College | 28,562 |
| Suffolk County Community College | 24,237 |
| Wake Technical Community College | 21,886 |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 21,690 |
| Front Range Community College | 18,932 |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 17,922 |
| Saint Louis Community College | 17,165 |
| Johnson County Community College | 16,880 |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 15,174 |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 14,224 |
| Kirkwood Community College | 13,325 |

¹ Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, [The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System](#)

² College Navigator, [College Navigator - National Center for Education Statistics](#)

³ IPEDS Glossary, [IPEDS Data Collection System](#)

⁴ 2017-2021

Percentages of Full Time and Part Time Students

DMACC's student population skews heavily towards part time students. This is because the enrollment numbers used include high school students (per federal reporting guidelines). Over a 1-year reporting period DMACC did see an increase in the percentage of full-time students from 25% to 26%.

| Institution Name | Students | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Percentage Full Time | Percentage Part Time |
| Suffolk County Community College | 45% | 55% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 42% | 58% |
| St. Louis Community College | 35% | 65% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 34% | 64% |
| South Orange County Community College District | 33% | 67% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 32% | 68% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 31% | 69% |
| Johnson County Community College | 29% | 71% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 26% | 74% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 26% | 74% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 23% | 77% |
| Front Range Community College | 23% | 77% |

Percentage of Students 24 Years old and Younger

DMACC's student population also skews heavily towards a younger student population. This year DMACC became the community college with the highest number of students aged 24 and under amongst our peers, whereas one year ago DMACC was third. DMACC's high school numbers are likely influencing this.

| Institution Name | Percentage of Students aged 24 and under |
|--|--|
| Des Moines Area Community College | 82% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 82% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 81% |
| Johnson County Community College | 74% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 73% |
| Front Range Community College | 73% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 72% |
| South Orange County Community College District | 72% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 70% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 67% |
| St. Louis Community College | 63% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 60% |

Online Students

This chart, which is new this year to the peer comparison document, shows the percentage of students who were reported as taking only online courses in Fall 2021 at each college.

| Institution Name | Students Enrolled in online only |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Wake Technical Community College | 54% |
| South Orange County Community College District | 41% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 40% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 37% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area | 31% |
| Johnson County Community College | 30% |
| Metropolitan Community College | 29% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 28% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 24% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 23% |
| Front Range Community College | 20% |
| St. Louis Community College | 18% |

Low Income Students Served

Colleges typically use the percentage of students who receive Pell Grants as a marker to estimate the percentage of low-income students served. The chart below shows DMACC near the middle of the group, but a drop of 4% low income students from previous years. Note that the community college district in California has significantly fewer Pell Grant students. California's funding model keeps the average annual tuition at community colleges in that state very low. This situation reduces the number of students who apply for Pell.

| Institution Name | Percent of first-time, full-time students who received Pell Grants |
|--|--|
| Community College of Baltimore County | 51% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 43% |
| St. Louis Community College | 41% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 39% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 37% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 36% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 36% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 35% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 35% |
| Front Range Community College | 34% |
| Johnson County Community College | 33% |
| South Orange County Community College District | 25% |

Veterans and Military Service Member Students

The number of veterans and military service members served is calculated based on the number of students who use Post-9/11 GI Bill or DoD Tuition Assistance. It is not a true representation but is the only way colleges can compare approximate numbers of veterans served. The California college did not report these numbers. As with Pell benefits above, California's low tuition means some veterans don't use the education benefits.

DMACC had 11 fewer students use veteran or military benefits compared to the previous year.

| Institution Name | Number of Veterans or Military Service Members Served |
|--|---|
| Front Range Community College | 772 |
| Wake Technical Community College | 635 |
| Salt Lake Community College | 486 |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 416 |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 334 |
| Suffolk County Community College | 321 |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 248 |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 240 |
| St. Louis Community College | 212 |
| Johnson County Community College | 211 |
| Kirkwood Community College | 106 |
| South Orange County Community College District | N/A |

Student-to-Faculty Ratio

DMACC has the fourth-highest student-to-faculty ratio in our peer group, a drop of one place in rankings. Establishing a healthy student-to-faculty ratio is a delicate balancing act of providing enough resources (faculty and courses) to teach students and allow them to successfully complete their credentials. Class size, or the student-to-faculty ratio, has been shown to be a predictor of success. However, institutions must remain fiscally healthy in order to continue serving students long into the future. Thus, it is ideal for an institution to strive for the middle when comparing this ratio to its peers.

It is worth noting that DMACC's student-to-faculty ratio has been consistent for most of the last decade. For a historical look at DMACC's data, please reference the annual DMACC Data Workbook, which can be found on the web pages associated with the Office of Planning, Assessment, and Data.

One thing to note about this data is that DMACC is required by the federal definition to include high school students, even those taught in the high schools, in our student numbers, but cannot include the high school instructors in our faculty numbers. If we only include students our faculty teach, DMACC's ratio is 14:1.

| Institution Name | Student/Faculty Ratio |
|--|-----------------------|
| South Orange County Community College District | 26:1 |
| Suffolk County Community College | 25:1 |
| St. Louis Community College | 22:1 |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 19:1 |
| Johnson County Community College | 19:1 |
| Front Range Community College | 18:1 |
| Kirkwood Community College | 18:1 |
| Salt Lake Community College | 17:1 |
| Wake Technical Community College | 17:1 |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 15:1 |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 14:1 |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 14:1 |

Student-to-faculty ratio is based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty and students. IPEDS calculation: Number of full-time students + (number of part-time students x 0.335737) = FTE. The same calculation is used for faculty, where the number of part-time faculty is multiplied by 0.335737.

First Year Retention Rates of Full and Part Time Students

Retention from the first to the second year of college is important for students and the institution. The ideal situation is for all students who start at a community college to complete a degree, certificate or diploma. Transferring to a four-year college prior to completing an associate's degree negatively impacts a student's chances of earning a bachelor's degree. For those pursuing a terminal credential, leaving college before earning a credential negatively impacts students' earnings and the community's workforce needs. For the college, maintaining enrollment numbers through the second year helps to ensure adequate tuition revenues and proper distribution of resources across the curriculum.

The charts on the next page show the retention rates of first year full-time and part-time students. Des Moines Area Community College is performing just below the median with 58% for full-time student retention. However, that is a decrease of 2% from last year when DMACC was above the median. For part-time students DMACC is above the median with 45% retention, a 3% increase from last year.

| Institution Name | Fall to Fall Retention FT |
|--|---------------------------|
| Front Range Community College | N/A |
| South Orange County Community College District | 76% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 67% |
| Johnson County Community College | 65% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 65% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 59% |
| St. Louis Community College | 59% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 58% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 58% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 55% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 55% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 49% |

| Institution Name | Fall to Fall Retention PT |
|--|---------------------------|
| Front Range Community College | N/A |
| Wake Technical Community College | 51% |
| Johnson County Community College | 47% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 45% |
| South Orange County Community College District | 44% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 43% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 41% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 41% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 41% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 40% |
| St. Louis Community College | 39% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 38% |

Graduation and Transfer Rates

According to a recent study, 75% of students who begin their post-high school education at a community college aim to eventually complete a 4-year degree, but only 25% actually transfer to a 4-year institution and only 14% complete the 4-year degree.⁵

The chart below shows that DMACC and all of its peers are performing below the 25% national average transfer rate. DMACC is also performing below the average of our peers for transfer rates (15%) but above average with a rate of 32% for graduation rate (at 150% of normal time).

⁵ Maliszewski Lukszo C, Hayes S. Facilitating Transfer Student Success: Exploring Sources of Transfer Student Capital. Community College Review. 2020;48(1):31-54. doi:10.1177/0091552119876017

| Institution Name | Graduation after 150% of normal time |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| South Orange County Community College District | 50% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 37% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 32% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 30% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 28% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 28% |
| Front Range Community College | 26% |
| Johnson County Community College | 26% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 25% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 22% |
| St. Louis Community College | 21% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 16% |

| Institution Name | Transfer rates |
|--|----------------|
| Community College of Baltimore County | 24% |
| Front Range Community College | 21% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 20% |
| St. Louis Community College | 19% |
| Johnson County Community College | 18% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 15% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 14% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 13% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 12% |
| South Orange County Community College District | 11% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 10% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 9% |

Since graduation and transfer are considered a measure of student success for community colleges, the table below combines both rates to show a Student Success Rate. DMACC and its peers may be underperforming compared to the national average; however, DMACC is outperforming 8 of its peers in the overall success of students.

| Institution Name | Success rates after 150% of normal time |
|--|---|
| South Orange County Community College District | 61% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 48% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 47% |
| Front Range Community College | 47% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 46% |
| Johnson County Community College | 44% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 42% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 40% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 40% |
| St. Louis Community College | 40% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 38% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 34% |

2-Year Degrees Awarded

During the course of the 2020-2021 academic year, DMACC awarded more associate degrees than six of our eleven peers. However, DMACC awarded fewer associate degrees than one of our peers who has a smaller enrollment. Wake Technical Community College awarded 1,112 more degrees while enrolling 763 fewer students. DMACC also awarded an additional 1,698 diplomas and certificates in the same year; Data is unavailable on DMACC peers awards below the Associate's level.

| Institution Name | Associate Awards 2020-21 |
|--|--------------------------|
| South Orange County Community College District | 5,855 |
| Suffolk County Community College | 3,440 |
| Salt Lake Community College | 3,436 |
| Wake Technical Community College | 3,141 |
| St. Louis Community College | 2,102 |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 2,029 |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 2,007 |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 1,868 |
| Front Range Community College | 1,857 |
| Johnson County Community College | 1,705 |
| Kirkwood Community College | 1,654 |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 1,427 |

Employees

The number of full-time and part-time faculty compared to our peers is comparable to the number of students. We are third among peers for the total number of full-time faculty, sixth for the number of part-time faculty, fourth for total student enrollment, and fifth for full-time equivalent faculty.

| Institution Name | Full time Faculty |
|--|-------------------|
| Wake Technical Community College | 592 |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 384 |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 350 |
| Salt Lake Community College | 349 |
| Johnson County Community College | 313 |
| St. Louis Community College | 306 |
| Kirkwood Community College | 255 |
| Suffolk County Community College | 249 |
| Front Range Community College | 244 |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 235 |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 225 |
| South Orange County Community College District | 195 |

| Institution Name | Part time Faculty |
|--|-------------------|
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 1169 |
| Salt Lake Community College | 1130 |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 877 |
| Front Range Community College | 842 |
| Suffolk County Community College | 809 |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 649 |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 565 |
| St. Louis Community College | 303 |
| South Orange County Community College District | 506 |
| Kirkwood Community College | 482 |
| Johnson County Community College | 444 |
| Wake Technical Community College | 285 |

| Institution Name | FTE Faculty |
|--|-------------|
| Salt Lake Community College | 726 |
| Wake Technical Community College | 687 |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 615 |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 572 |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 566 |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 527 |
| Front Range Community College | 525 |
| Suffolk County Community College | 519 |
| St. Louis Community College | 407 |
| Johnson County Community College | 461 |
| Kirkwood Community College | 416 |
| South Orange County Community College District | 364 |

FTE = Number of full-time faculty + (number of part-time faculty x 0.335737).

For full-time staff, DMACC ranks near the bottom of our peers at 498. The average number of full-time staff among peers is 648.

| Institution Name | Full-Time Staff ⁶ |
|--|------------------------------|
| Salt Lake Community College | 974 |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 821 |
| Wake Technical Community College | 810 |
| Saint Louis Community College | 696 |
| Suffolk County Community College | 689 |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 605 |
| Johnson County Community College | 579 |
| Kirkwood Community College | 533 |
| South Orange County Community College District | 529 |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 506 |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 502 |
| Front Range Community College | 445 |

⁶ Full-time staff = IPEDS-reported total staff – (instructional staff + total primary instruction). IPEDS Human Resources 2021 report, part C.

Expenses

According to Romano & Palmer (2016), "Examining the way colleges spend their money also gives us an idea of what their priorities are." The average expenditure on *Instruction* at public 2-year colleges across the US was 39%. The average expenditure on *Institutional Support* was 15.7%. The average expenditure on *Academic and Student Support* was 19.4%. Auxiliary, research, public service, and others made up the remaining amount.

Since DMACC's student-to-faculty ratios and the number of full-time and part-time faculty in the previous tables shows that it's in line with our peers and DMACC's student numbers, it's worth exploring how expenses at DMACC are allocated to the *Instruction* category and whether "mission creep" or something else is accounting for some of the instructional expenses.

This is down from last year's comparison when DMACC reported 54% of its expenses were in the Instructional category.

| Institution Name | Percent of Core Expenses Spent on Instruction |
|--|---|
| Des Moines Area Community College | 51% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 45% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 45% |
| Johnson County Community College | 44% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 44% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 44% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 44% |
| Front Range Community College | 43% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 41% |
| South Orange County Community College District | 38% |
| St. Louis Community College | 38% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 38% |

| Institution Name | Percent of Core Expenses Spent on Institutional Support |
|--|---|
| Kirkwood Community College | 37% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 26% |
| St. Louis Community College | 23% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 21% |
| Johnson County Community College | 21% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 20% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 18% |
| South Orange County Community College District | 18% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 17% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 16% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 15% |
| Front Range Community College | 11% |

Also, of note, DMACC is spending below the average on student services and academic support. This is in line with a previous chart showing what appears to be understaffing compared to our peers.

| Institution Name | Percent of Core Expenses Spent on Student Services and Academic Support |
|--|---|
| Johnson County Community College | 28% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 28% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 27% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 23% |
| St. Louis Community College | 21% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 20% |
| South Orange County Community College District | 19% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 18% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 17% |
| Front Range Community College | 17% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 15% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 13% |

Most of our peers have no research or public service expenses, those who do report 1% spending in this area are typically spending between \$800,000 and \$1.5 million annually on public service. For example, Salt Lake Community College spent \$942,249 on public service in the 2020-2021 reporting year.

| Institution Name | Percent of Core Expenses Spent on Research and Public Service |
|--|---|
| Front Range Community College | 1% |
| Johnson County Community College | 1% |
| South Orange County Community College District | 1% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | <1% |
| Salt Lake Community College | <1% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 0% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 0% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 0% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 0% |
| St. Louis Community College | 0% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 0% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 0% |

Finally, with an average of 16% of expenses spent on scholarships and similar institutional financial aid to students among peers, DMACC is well below the average with only giving 11% of its expenses to this category. However, this is up 2% over the previous year. It is possible that the COVID-19 pandemic influenced these numbers.

| Institution Name | Percent of Core Expenses Spent on Other (scholarships, fellowships, discounts, allowances, other) |
|--|---|
| Front Range Community College | 29% |
| South Orange County Community College District | 24% |
| Suffolk County Community College | 24% |
| Community College of Baltimore County | 23% |
| Wake Technical Community College | 21% |
| St. Louis Community College | 17% |
| Metropolitan Community College-Kansas City | 13% |
| Des Moines Area Community College | 11% |
| Metropolitan Community College Area-Omaha | 11% |
| Salt Lake Community College | 9% |
| Johnson County Community College | 7% |
| Kirkwood Community College | 5% |

Other comparisons may be included in future years to show how DMACC has performed related to peers. If you have any questions about this document, please contact the Office of Planning, Assessment and Data. The office can be reached at opad@dmacc.edu