



Students First Framework Data Kit



March 1, 2024

MISSION

Cerritos College provides its diverse student population with high-quality, comprehensive instructional programs and support services through clear, equity-minded pathways to their educational goals. In doing so, the college develops culturally competent students with the knowledge, skills, and values that prepare them to be productive members of their local and global communities.

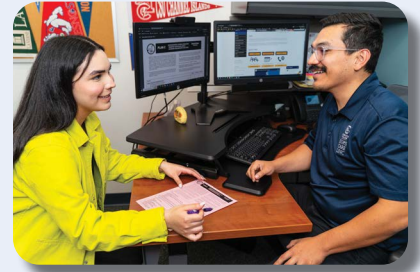
VISION

Cerritos College will provide innovative learning opportunities and support services that will close persistent educational achievement gaps.

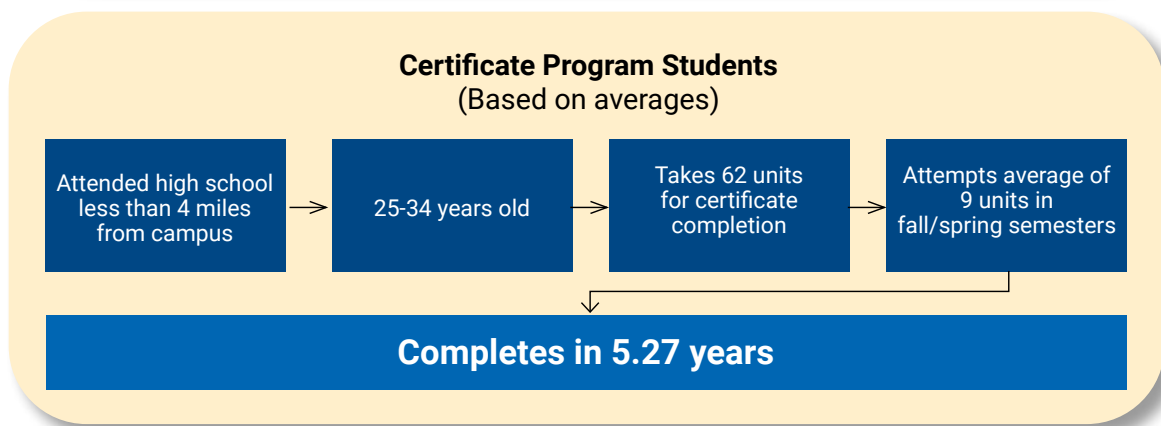
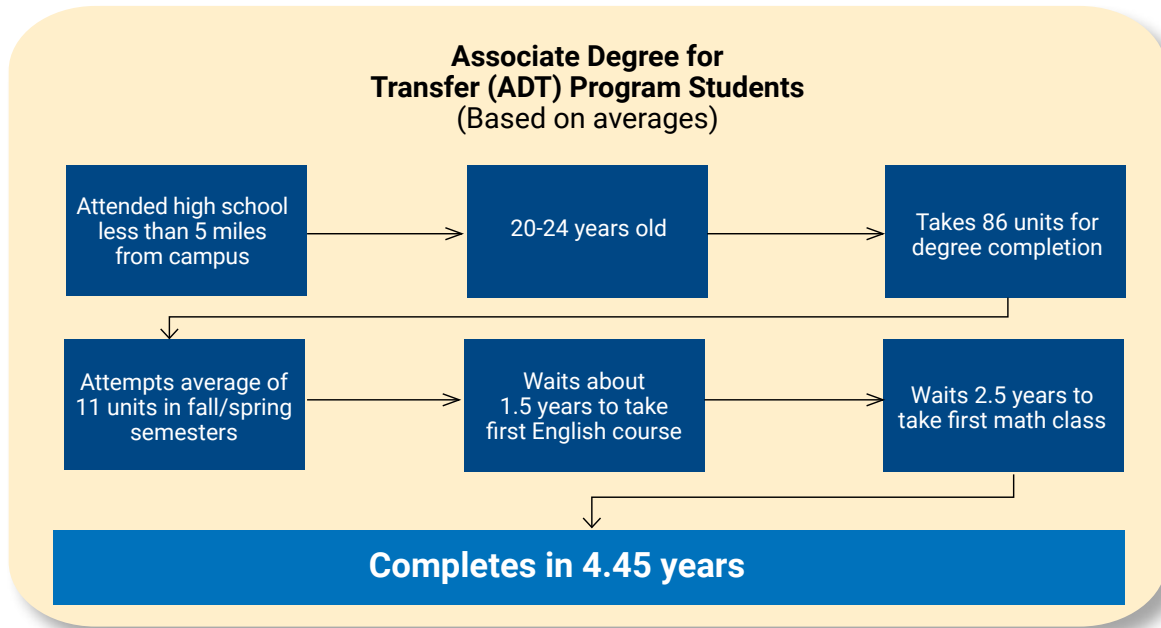
VALUES

We have strong core values:

- Support and promote student success
- Promote excellence in teaching, learning, and service
- Support innovation and creativity to enhance and enrich learning
- Celebrate diversity in people, philosophies, cultures, beliefs, programs and learning
- Promote respect and trust in all people regardless of background, including students, community members, and employees
- Foster integrity
- Develop nurturing and supportive partnerships with our educational, business, and industry communities
- Support comprehensive curricular offerings
- Promote inclusiveness in a collaborative decision-making process



What We Know About Our Students



What is a “Students First Framework?”

Cerritos College set an ambitious goal to graduate 50% of our students within five years or less by spring 2029. We recognize that achieving this goal requires measurable improvements to our systems and processes. To help us organize our efforts and improve the student experience, we prioritize strategies and activities organized into four levers.

The first three levers - Equitable Access, Completion, and Career and Transfer Success - represent the student journey at Cerritos College, which begins before they register for classes and continues through completion, transfer, and beyond. Institutional Health, the fourth lever, is centered on maintaining our culture of excellence, where all decisions are made in the best interests of our students.

We know certain places where our students are getting lost and this is where the Students First Framework comes in. We’ve prepared some key data points organized by levers for the campus to consider as we build this framework together.



Equitable Access

Be a Student-Ready Institution

Cerritos College will expand opportunities for our community to participate in higher education by ensuring equitable access for every learner to enter an educational pathway.



Our Enrollment is Rebounding

After five years of declining enrollment, we are beginning to recover since the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are many reasons more students are coming back to Cerritos College. One reason is that we are meeting the students' needs in a variety of formats such as in-person and online courses and support services.



The Power of a Plan

More than ever before, students are completing a Comprehensive Student Educational Plan (CSEP) within their first year. This is good news because students who have finalized a CSEP are 1.5 times more likely to complete their certificate or degree in a shorter amount of time. By the end of fall 2023, 82% of our first-time students received a CSEP.

Making College Affordable

We need to make sure students are receiving the resources they need. Most of our service area experiences higher levels of poverty compared to the state average of 12%.

- Bellflower at 16%
- Hawaiian Gardens at 17%
- South Gate at 18%

Most of our students qualify for financial aid, which is at a higher rate when compared to the statewide average. We know that when we remove students' financial barriers and meet students' basic needs, they are more likely to do better academically in school.



Completion

More Students Complete in Less Time

Cerritos College will increase timely student completion rates and reduce excess units upon completion, ensuring students' progress to complete program requirements and achievement of their educational goals.



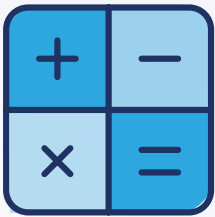
Stay on the Path

Students are not attempting and passing enough of their classes. They are also taking excess units to complete their educational goal.

We need to help students stay on the path and attempt more courses as outlined on their Comprehensive Student Educational Plan (CSEP).



In their first year, less than 50% of students pass 15+ units or pass their first five courses attempted.



Begin with the Basics

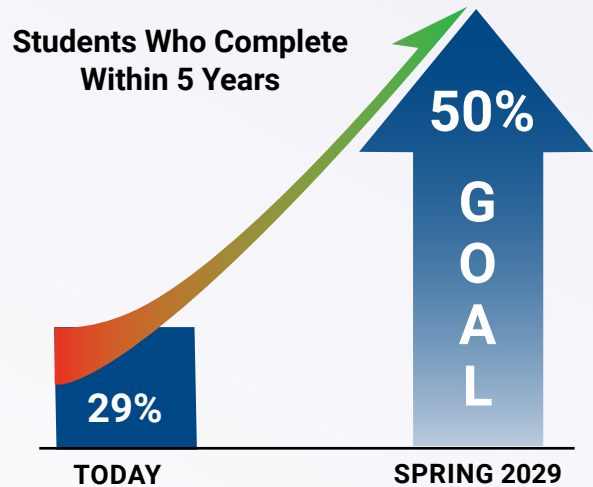
Completion of transfer-level math and English are the strongest predictors of overall completion. We have made great strides getting more students through transfer-level math and English; however, students avoid taking these courses in their first year of study.

We need to encourage students to start with transfer-level math and English to achieve their educational goal – we know that makes them more likely to succeed.

Raising the Bar

Less than 30% of our students complete within five years, and only 10% complete within two years.

As we align our efforts to the four levers, we will be able to implement innovative strategies that help us to reach our goal of graduating 50% of our students within five years.



Career and Transfer Success

Increase Economic Mobility for Our Students and Community

Cerritos College will be innovative in developing career and transfer pathways. We will cultivate partnerships that enable life-changing career opportunities for our students and fuel local workforce with talent that is prepared to meet the needs of the economy.



CTE Students are Successful and Career Ready

Regardless of whether or not a credential is earned or a student transfers, completion of Career Technical Education (CTE) training is related to positive employment outcomes. Our students are satisfied with their training, secure a job similar to their program of study, and earn more money.

92%

of students are satisfied with training received at Cerritos College.



Students earn **\$10.85** more an hour in their job after completing training.

Economic Mobility

Students who earn an associate degree gain an average of \$400,000 more in lifetime earnings compared to those with only a high school diploma.



Top Earning Job Fields

Cloud Computing

\$126,000

Nursing

\$117,500

Administration of Justice

\$111,200

Dental Hygienist

\$106,100



Increase Transfer Rates

We know that some programs require more than an associate degree to produce a living wage, which makes transfer success essential to a student's journey. While we have increased in the number of awards granted, the number of students transferring to a university remains unchanged over time. We need our students to understand the importance of transferring for some degree programs, and give them the tools to be successful in reaching their educational goal.

Institutional Health Foster Institutional Wellbeing

Cerritos College commits to making the most effective use of our resources. We aim for agile, caring practices that foster excellence throughout our operations. All decisions are made in order to best serve our students. As a result, we attract, develop, and retain engaged and qualified employees who embody our mission.



The Effects of Student Success

Through the Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF), Cerritos College is partially funded based on student need and student outcomes. When we help students get the financial support they need and they are successful, as an institution, we do better financially.



We Invest in the Best

Employee retention enhances the function of the college and its operations. Since 2021, we retained 92.5% of employees with 7.5% being new hires.

A healthy institution relies on an engaged and supportive community of professionals. We invest in the best employees to serve our students, and when our students succeed, so do we.



Coming Together

Our mission, student success, employee success, belonging, and institutional stability are all connected. When we adhere to our mission, put our students first, and invest in our institution and employees, we retain and attract the very best talent. This investment comes full circle when we achieve upward social mobility for our students and the communities we serve.





CERRITOS
COLLEGE



<https://www.cerritos.edu/students-first-framework>

11110 Alondra Blvd.
Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 860-2451