



**SCOTTSDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

A MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE)
Benchmark Analysis**

Fall 2017

Contents

Executive Summary	2
Benchmark Comparisons	4
Benchmarks Score Comparisons	4
Enrollment Status Benchmark Score Comparisons	6
Benchmark Itemized Results	9
1) Academic and Social Support Network	9
2) Effective Track to College Readiness	11
3) Engaged Learning.....	13
4) Clear Academic Plan and Pathway.....	17
5) High Expectations and Aspirations	19
6) Early Connections	21



Executive Summary

Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) is a questionnaire designed to measure various aspects of the early educational experiences of community college students. This survey focuses on entering student behaviors as well as institutional practices that can impact student success. SENSE Benchmarks of effective educational practice include six areas shown to be important to entering students' college experiences and educational outcomes. SCC administered the survey in Fall 2017 and yielded a sample of 607 entering students (weighted) out of the 946 students surveyed. The results in this report focus on the target population of entering students.

BENCHMARK ANALYSIS KEY FINDINGS:

- **CONSISTENT HIGH AND LOW BENCHMARKS:** For the last three SENSE surveys (2011, 2014, and 2017), SCC's top two benchmarks have been *Academic and Social Support Network* and *Effective Track to College Readiness*. The bottom of the six benchmarks are consistently *High Expectations and Aspirations* and *Early Connections*. In 2017, SCC scored lower than MCCCDC and National samples on three of six benchmarks.
- **FULL-TIME STUDENTS ARE MORE ENGAGED:** Full-time students have higher benchmark scores than part-time students. SCC full-time students also scored higher than MCCCDC and National students on *Academic and Social Support Network*. Both full-time and part-time students scored lower than the other samples on *Engaged Learning*.
- **BENCHMARK ITEMS:** SCC scored higher and lower than MCCCDC and National samples on various benchmark items.
 - Benchmark scores shaded in green are those in which SCC is above the MCCCDC and National averages; areas in pink are below these averages.
 - Highlighted below are the individual items that SCC excelled on (*scored better than both MCCCDC and National averages) and needs improvement on (**scored lower than both MCCCDC and National averages).
 - The 5 highest aspects of student engagement the most favorably contributed to SCC's scores are shaded in green, and the 5 least favorable items are in pink, (SENSE SCC 2017 Key Findings, pages 4-5).

2017 Benchmark Score Comparison					
(Scores are standardized to the national sample mean of 50 with a standard deviation of 25)					
Benchmark	SCC Score	MCCCDC Score	National Sample Score	Benchmark Items on which SCC Excelled*	Benchmark Items on which SCC Needs Improvement**
Academic and Social Support Network	56.6	52.9	50.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructors clearly explain available academic and student support services • Instructors clearly explain course grading policies and syllabi • Students know how to get in touch with their instructors outside of class • At least one student and one instructor learn students' names, and students learn the names of others in most of their classes 	-



Benchmark	SCC Score	MCCCD Score	National Sample Score	Benchmark Items on which SCC Excelled*	Benchmark Items on which SCC Needs Improvement**
Effective Track to College Readiness	54.7	56.8	50.0	<i>Students rated SCC between or roughly equivalent to both samples on all items in this benchmark</i>	-
Engaged Learning	49.0	49.7	50.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students ask questions in class or contributing to class discussions • Participation in supplemental instruction, such as tutoring • Use an electronic tool to communicate with an instructor about coursework • Receive prompt written or oral feedback from instructors on their performance • Discuss ideas from their readings or classes with instructors outside of class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students prepare two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in • Work with classmates outside of class on class projects or assignments • Participate in required as well as student-initiated (not-required) study groups outside of class • Use an electronic tool to communicate with another student about coursework • Ask for help from an instructor regarding questions or problems related to a class • Usage of writing, math, or other skill labs and computer labs
Clear Academic Plan and Pathway	48.6	46.1	50.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An advisor helped students set academic goals and to create a plan for achieving them • A college staff member talked to students about their commitments outside of school (work, family, etc.) to help them figure out how many courses to take 	-
High Expectations and Aspirations	47.8	48.0	50.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students feel that the instructors want them to succeed • Have motivation to do what it takes to succeed in college • Are prepared academically to succeed in college 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students turn in assignments late • Do not turn in assignments • Come to class without completing readings or assignments • Skip class
Early Connections	45.0	45.3	50.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students feel welcome • The college provides adequate information about financial assistance • At least one college staff member (other than an instructor) learned their name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College staff members help students determine whether they qualify for financial assistance • Assigned a specific person that they can see each time they need information or assistance

For a complete list of item results, see the *SCC Itemized Frequency and Mean Results*. Additional analysis also provided by SENSE in *SENSE Scottsdale Community College 2017 Key Findings*.

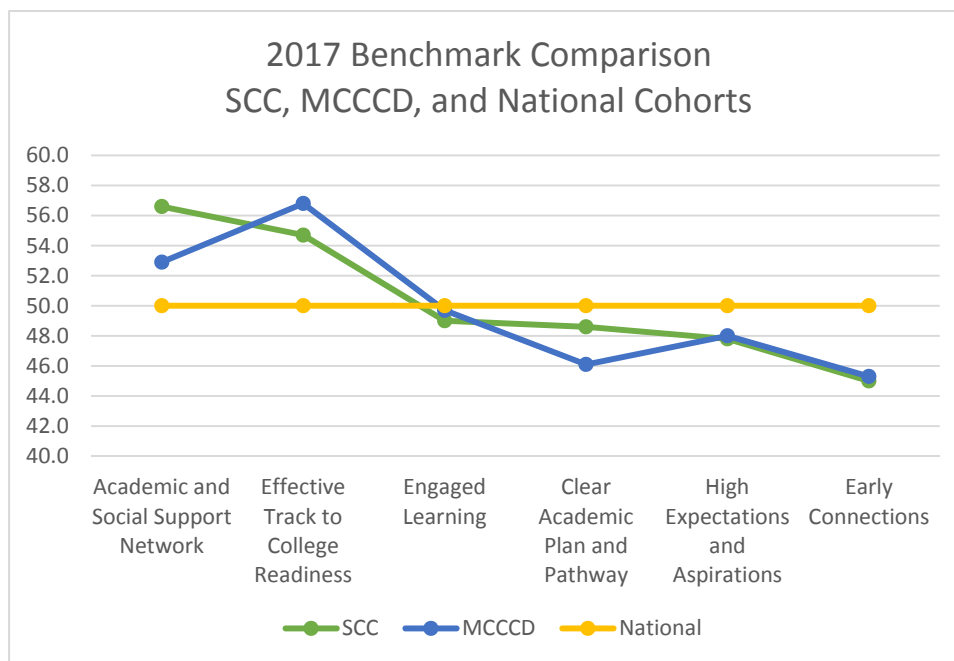


Benchmark Comparisons

Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) is a survey that is designed to measure various aspects of the early educational experiences of community college students. This report displays the benchmark totals and individual item results for the Fall 2017 SENSE survey (N=607 Entering Students of the 946 students surveyed). Each of the items offers comparisons between Scottsdale Community College (SCC), Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD, includes eight other colleges in the District, excludes Rio Salado College), and the National Sample. Areas shaded in green are those in which SCC is above the MCCCD and National averages; areas in pink are below these averages.

Benchmarks Score Comparisons

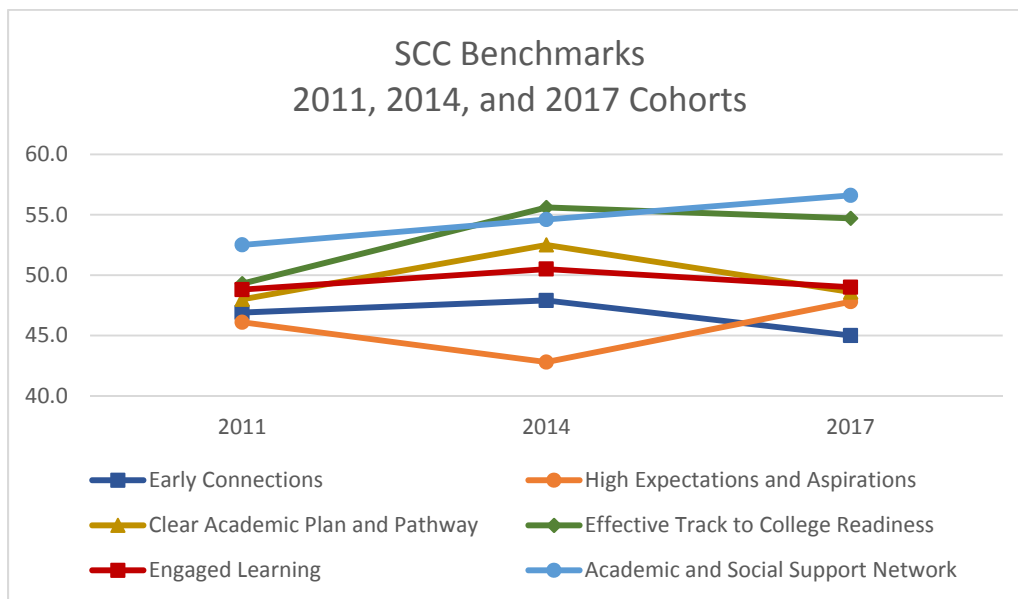
2017 Benchmark Score Comparison (Scores are standardized to the national sample mean of 50 with a standard deviation of 25)			
Benchmark	SCC Score	MCCCD Score	National Sample Score
Academic and Social Support Network	56.6	52.9	50.0
Effective Track to College Readiness	54.7	56.8	50.0
Engaged Learning	49.0	49.7	50.0
Clear Academic Plan and Pathway	48.6	46.1	50.0
High Expectations and Aspirations	47.8	48.0	50.0
Early Connections	45.0	45.3	50.0



SCC's highest scores are on *Academic and Social Support Network* and *Effective Track to College Readiness*. However, SCC scored lower than MCCCD and National samples on three of the six benchmarks.



SCC Benchmark Score Comparisons 2011, 2014, and 2017 Scores (Each year, scores are standardized to the national sample mean of 50 with a standard deviation of 25)			
Benchmark	2011 Score	2014 Score	2017 Score
Academic and Social Support Network	52.5	54.6	56.6
Effective Track to College Readiness	49.3	55.6	54.7
Engaged Learning	48.8	50.5	49.0
Clear Academic Plan and Pathway	48.0	52.5	48.6
High Expectations and Aspirations	46.1	42.8	47.8
Early Connections	46.9	47.9	45.0

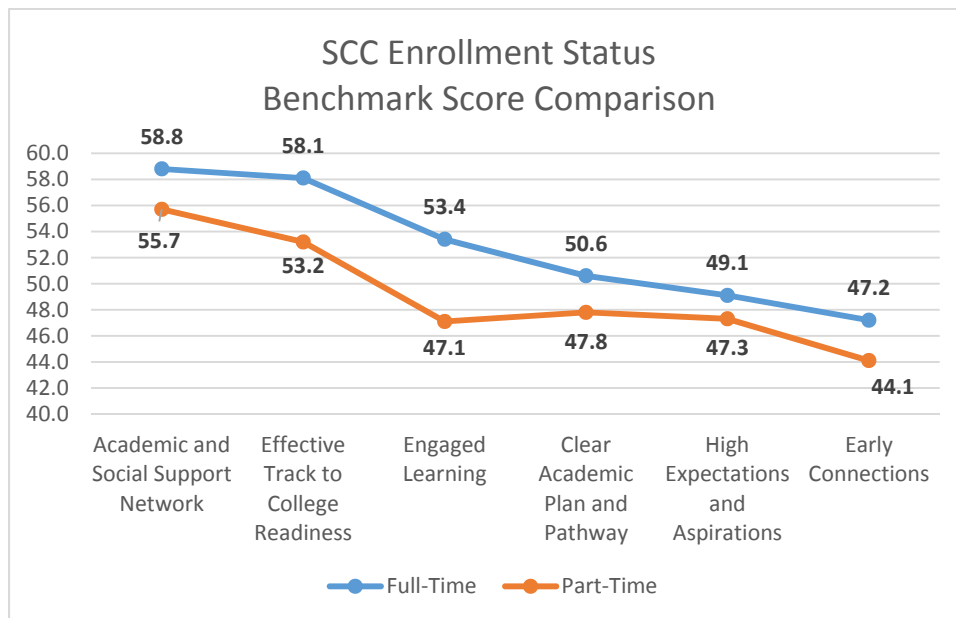


For the last three SENSE surveys (2011, 2014, and 2017), SCC’s top two benchmarks have been *Academic and Social Support Network* and *Effective Track to College Readiness*. SCC’s lowest two scores on the six benchmarks are consistently *High Expectations and Aspirations* and *Early Connections*.



Enrollment Status Benchmark Score Comparisons

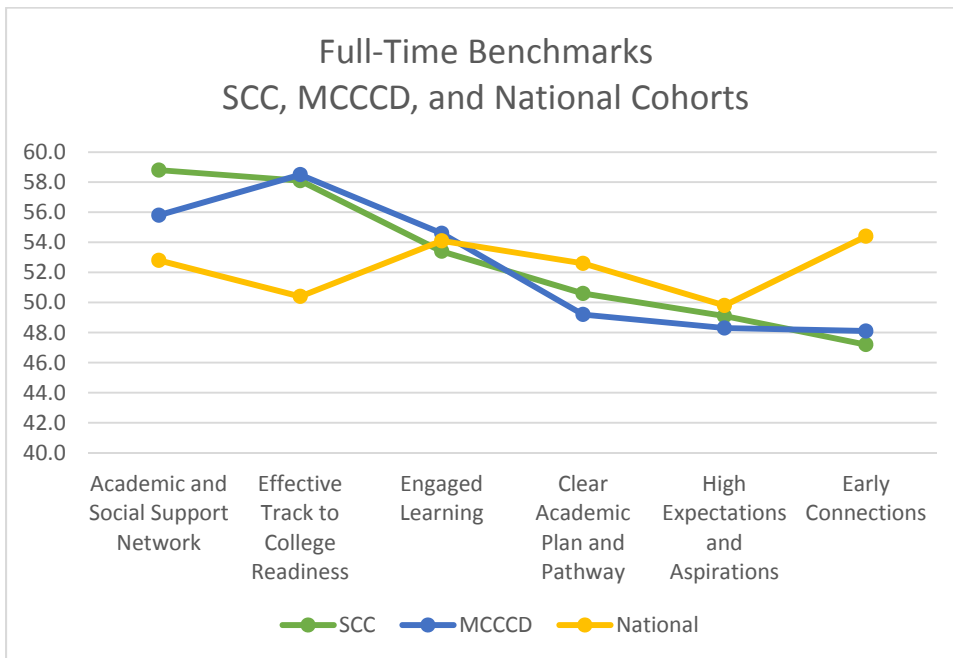
Enrollment Status Benchmark Score Comparisons		
Benchmark	Full-time Score	Part-time Score
Academic and Social Support Network	58.8	55.7
Effective Track to College Readiness	58.1	53.2
Engaged Learning	53.4	47.1
Clear Academic Plan and Pathway	50.6	47.8
High Expectations and Aspirations	49.1	47.3
Early Connections	47.2	44.1



Among SCC students, full-time students have higher benchmark scores than part-time students. The largest differences between full-time and part-time students are on *Engaged Learning* and *Effective Track to College Readiness* benchmarks.



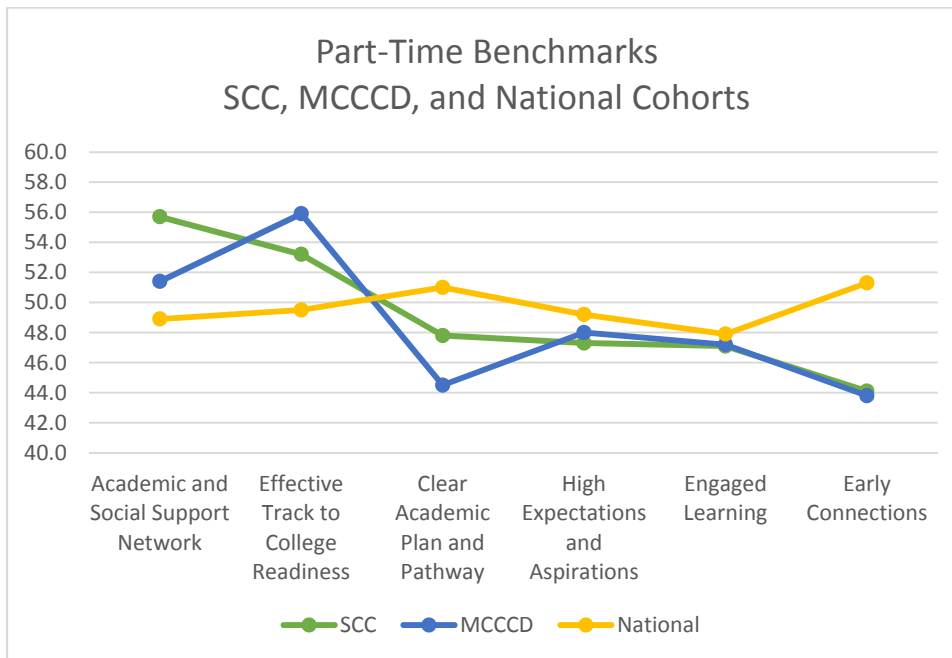
Full-time Benchmark Score Comparison			
Benchmark	SCC Score	MCCCD Score	National Sample Score
Academic and Social Support Network	58.8	55.8	52.8
Effective Track to College Readiness	58.1	58.5	50.4
Engaged Learning	53.4	54.6	54.1
Clear Academic Plan and Pathway	50.6	49.2	52.6
High Expectations and Aspirations	49.1	48.3	49.8
Early Connections	47.2	48.1	54.4



When comparing across samples, SCC full-time students scored higher than MCCCD and National students on *Academic and Social Support Network*, but lower on *Engaged Learning* and *Early Connections*.



Part-time Benchmark Score Comparison			
Benchmark	SCC Score	MCCCD Score	National Sample Score
Academic and Social Support Network	55.7	51.4	48.9
Effective Track to College Readiness	53.2	55.9	49.5
Clear Academic Plan and Pathway	47.8	44.5	51.0
High Expectations and Aspirations	47.3	48.0	49.2
Engaged Learning	47.1	47.2	47.9
Early Connections	44.1	43.8	51.3



When comparing across samples, SCC part-time students scored higher than MCCCD and National students on *Academic and Social Support Network*, but lower on *High Expectations and Aspirations* and *Engaged Learning*.



Benchmark Itemized Results

Each benchmark is calculated using student responses to particular SENSE questions. Below are the itemized frequency and mean results for all six benchmarks. Each item offers comparisons between Scottsdale Community College (SCC), Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD, includes eight other colleges in the District, excludes Rio Salado College), and the National Sample. Areas shaded in green are those in which SCC performed better than the MCCCD and National averages; areas in pink are lower than these averages. An asterisk (*) denotes a significant difference between the mean for SCC and the mean of either MCCCD or the National Sample.

1) Academic and Social Support Network

★ Academic and Social Support Network: Students benefit from having a personal network that enables them to obtain information about college services, along with the academic and social support critical to student success. Because entering students often don't know what they don't know, colleges must purposefully create those networks, (SENSE SCC 2017 Key Findings, page 3).

SCC's Benchmark Score of 56.6 is composed of the following questions:

Item 18: Think about your experiences from the time of your decision to attend this college through the end of the first three weeks of your first semester/quarter.

18l. All instructors clearly explained academic and student support services available at this college						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	1.0	1.6	1.6	4.17	4.01	3.92*
2 = Disagree	5.0	4.7	6.7			
3 = Neutral	13.3	17.1	18.8			
4 = Agree	37.8	43.9	43.5			
5 = Strongly agree	43.0	32.7	29.4			

18m. All instructors clearly explained course grading policies						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	1.0	0.5	0.6	4.39	4.32	4.27
2 = Disagree	1.6	1.7	2.3			
3 = Neutral	6.7	8.6	9.3			
4 = Agree	38.7	44.1	45.6			
5 = Strongly agree	51.9	45.2	42.3			



18n. All instructors clearly explained course syllabi (syllabuses)						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	0.3	0.4	0.4	4.49	4.38	4.36
2 = Disagree	1.3	1.5	1.7			
3 = Neutral	6.2	7.4	7.1			
4 = Agree	33.8	40.4	42.7			
5 = Strongly agree	58.4	50.2	48.1			

18o. I knew how to get in touch with my instructors outside of class						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	0.3	0.7	0.6	4.38	4.31	4.30
2 = Disagree	1.9	2.2	2.1			
3 = Neutral	7.8	9.2	9.0			
4 = Agree	39.4	41.5	43.4			
5 = Strongly agree	50.6	46.4	44.8			

18q. At least one other student whom I didn't previously know learned my name						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	2.2	1.7	2.7	4.30	4.22	4.11*
2 = Disagree	2.8	4.2	5.6			
3 = Neutral	9.1	9.8	11.3			
4 = Agree	35.0	39.1	39.1			
5 = Strongly agree	51.0	45.2	41.3			

18r. At least one instructor learned my name						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	2.0	1.4	1.6	4.43	4.29	4.24*
2 = Disagree	1.8	3.0	3.8			
3 = Neutral	5.4	9.0	9.2			
4 = Agree	33.2	38.0	39.7			
5 = Strongly agree	57.6	48.5	45.7			



18s. I learned the name of at least one other student in most of my classes						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	2.0	1.2	1.9	4.34	4.31	4.23
2 = Disagree	3.1	3.6	4.3			
3 = Neutral	6.2	7.9	8.8			
4 = Agree	36.4	37.4	39.3			
5 = Strongly agree	52.4	50.0	45.7			

2) Effective Track to College Readiness

★ Effective Track to College Readiness: Nationally, more than six in 10 entering community college students are underprepared for college-level work. Thus, significant improvements in student success will hinge upon effective assessment, placement of students into appropriate courses, and implementation of effective strategies to ensure that students build academic skills and receive needed support, (SENSE SCC 2017 Key Findings, page 3).

SCC's Benchmark Score of 54.7 is composed of the following questions:

Item 12: Think about your experiences from the time of your decision to attend this college through the end of the first three weeks of your first semester/quarter.

12a. Before I could register for classes, I was required to take a placement test (COMPASS, ASSET, ACCUPLACER, SAT, ACT, etc.) to assess my skills in reading, writing, and/or math			
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent
Yes	90.1	93.5	83.0
No	9.9	6.5	17.0

12b. I took a placement test (COMPASS, ASSET, ACCUPLACER, SAT, ACT, etc.)			
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent
Yes	89.5	93.1	87.3
No	10.5	6.9	12.7



14. This college required me to enroll in classes indicated by my placement test scores during my first semester/quarter			
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent
Yes	78.6	82.0	67.4
No	21.4	18.0	32.6

Item 21: Think about your experiences from the time of your decision to attend this college through the end of the first three weeks of your first semester/quarter. Within a class, or through another experience at this college:

21a. I learned to improve my study skills (listening, note taking, highlighting readings, working with others, etc.)						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	1.8	1.5	1.3	4.03	4.01	4.03
2 = Disagree	4.6	3.8	3.6			
3 = Neutral	17.3	20.8	19.4			
4 = Agree	41.5	39.8	41.8			
5 = Strongly agree	34.8	34.2	34.0			

21b. I learned to understand my academic strengths and weaknesses						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	1.4	1.4	1.1	3.97	3.97	3.98
2 = Disagree	4.0	3.7	3.6			
3 = Neutral	22.2	23.0	21.7			
4 = Agree	40.9	40.8	43.7			
5 = Strongly agree	31.6	31.1	29.9			

21c. I learned skills and strategies to improve my test-taking ability						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	2.9	2.7	2.5	3.67	3.67	3.68
2 = Disagree	10.2	9.1	9.1			
3 = Neutral	29.8	31.9	30.9			
4 = Agree	31.6	30.8	32.6			
5 = Strongly agree	25.6	25.5	24.9			



3) Engaged Learning

★ Engaged Learning: Instructional approaches that foster engaged learning are critical for student success. Because most community college students attend college part-time, and most also must find ways to balance their studies with work and family responsibilities, the most effective learning experiences will be those the college intentionally designs, (SENSE SCC 2017 Key Findings, page 3).

SCC's Benchmark Score of 49.0 is composed of the following questions:

Item 19: During the first three weeks of your first semester/quarter at this college, about how often did you do the following?

19a. Ask questions in class or contribute to class discussions						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	5.2	7.5	8.9	2.85	2.78	2.79
2 = Once	27.0	27.6	24.5			
3 = Two or three times	45.0	44.5	45.5			
4 = Four or more times	22.8	20.4	21.1			

19b. Prepare at least two drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	40.8	29.2	29.7	1.95	2.12	2.11
2 = Once	29.6	35.5	35.9			
3 = Two or three times	23.3	29.0	28.0			
4 = Four or more times	6.3	6.3	6.4			

19e. Participate in supplemental instruction (extra class sessions with an instructor, tutor, or experienced student)						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	65.6	67.2	66.7	1.57	1.53	1.54
2 = Once	17.7	17.3	17.2			
3 = Two or three times	10.5	11.3	11.2			
4 = Four or more times	6.1	4.3	4.9			



19g. Work with other students on a project or assignment during class

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	19.3	16.9	20.8	2.55	2.60	2.46
2 = Once	22.9	25.7	26.8			
3 = Two or three times	41.3	38.0	37.7			
4 = Four or more times	16.6	19.4	14.8			

19h. Work with classmates outside of class on class projects or assignments

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	66.7	63.3	62.6	1.50	1.58	1.60
2 = Once	20.8	20.1	19.3			
3 = Two or three times	8.4	12.2	13.3			
4 = Four or more times	4.1	4.3	4.8			

19i. Participate in a required study group outside of class

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	82.7	80.9	80.9	1.26	1.30	1.31
2 = Once	10.5	10.5	10.3			
3 = Two or three times	4.8	5.9	6.0			
4 = Four or more times	2.0	2.7	2.7			

19j. Participate in a student-initiated (not required) study group outside of class

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	82.8	82.0	80.6	1.27	1.28	1.31
2 = Once	9.6	10.1	10.8			
3 = Two or three times	5.5	5.6	6.0			
4 = Four or more times	2.1	2.2	2.6			



19k. Use an electronic tool (e-mail, text messaging, Facebook, MySpace, class Web site, etc.) to communicate with another student about coursework

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	39.3	35.4	37.9	2.12	2.25	2.19
2 = Once	25.4	22.4	22.5			
3 = Two or three times	19.5	24.3	22.4			
4 = Four or more times	15.8	17.9	17.3			

19l. Use an electronic tool (e-mail, text messaging, Facebook, MySpace, class Web site, etc.) to communicate with an instructor about coursework

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	24.1	28.6	30.7	2.34	2.28	2.25
2 = Once	31.7	28.9	27.6			
3 = Two or three times	30.4	28.1	27.3			
4 = Four or more times	13.9	14.4	14.4			

19m. Discuss an assignment or grade with an instructor

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	33.9	34.3	33.1	2.06	2.04	2.07
2 = Once	32.8	35.4	34.5			
3 = Two or three times	26.6	22.8	25.0			
4 = Four or more times	6.7	7.6	7.4			

19n. Ask for help from an instructor regarding questions or problems related to a class

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	24.8	22.9	23.1	2.32	2.33	2.34
2 = Once	29.6	33.2	31.8			
3 = Two or three times	34.0	32.0	33.1			
4 = Four or more times	11.6	11.8	12.1			



19o. Receive prompt written or oral feedback from instructors on your performance						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	22.9	23.9	24.8	2.45	2.40	2.34
2 = Once	26.6	28.3	29.2			
3 = Two or three times	32.7	32.0	32.6			
4 = Four or more times	17.8	15.8	13.3			

19q. Discuss ideas from your readings or classes with instructors outside of class						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	59.4	62.6	63.3	1.68	1.61	1.59
2 = Once	20.8	19.5	19.7			
3 = Two or three times	12.3	12.1	12.0			
4 = Four or more times	7.6	5.8	5.0			

20.2: Think about your experiences from the time of your decision to attend this college through the end of the first three weeks of your first semester/quarter. How often did you use the following services?

20.2d. Face-to-face tutoring						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	82.9	82.2	81.6	1.29	1.29	1.31
2 = Once	9.1	9.7	9.6			
3 = Two or three times	4.6	5.5	5.3			
4 = Four or more times	3.5	2.6	3.5			

20.2f. Writing, math, or other skill lab						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	71.4	75.3	66.2	1.50	1.43	1.66
2 = Once	12.2	11.9	12.9			
3 = Two or three times	11.0	7.3	9.9			
4 = Four or more times	5.4	5.5	11.0			



20.2h. Computer lab						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	50.9	53.9	48.4	1.85	1.88	2.02
2 = Once	23.6	17.6	18.2			
3 = Two or three times	14.8	15.4	16.5			
4 = Four or more times	10.7	13.1	16.8			

4) Clear Academic Plan and Pathway

★ Clear Academic Plan and Pathway: When a student, with knowledgeable assistance, creates a road map—one that shows where he or she is headed, what academic path to follow, and how long it will take to reach the end goal—that student has a critical tool for staying on track. Students are more likely to persist if they not only are advised about what courses to take, but also are helped to set academic goals and to create a plan for achieving them, (SENSE SCC 2017 Key Findings, page 2).

SCC's Benchmark Score of 48.6 is composed of the following questions:

Item 18: Think about your experiences from the time of your decision to attend this college through the end of the first three weeks of your first semester/quarter.

18d. I was able to meet with an academic advisor at times convenient for me						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	3.5	3.4	2.1	3.74	3.71	3.83
2 = Disagree	6.2	8.4	6.7			
3 = Neutral	28.0	26.6	24.0			
4 = Agree	37.8	37.4	40.1			
5 = Strongly agree	24.5	24.2	27.0			



18e. An advisor helped me to select a course of study, program, or major

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	5.4	6.2	4.2	3.67	3.59	3.76
2 = Disagree	12.0	14.7	11.6			
3 = Neutral	22.8	19.8	18.0			
4 = Agree	29.4	33.0	36.0			
5 = Strongly agree	30.4	26.3	30.2			

18f. An advisor helped me to set academic goals and to create a plan for achieving them

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	7.6	7.3	5.6	3.41	3.26	3.39
2 = Disagree	15.0	22.0	18.3			
3 = Neutral	28.5	26.8	28.0			
4 = Agree	26.3	24.8	27.9			
5 = Strongly agree	22.6	19.1	20.2			

18g. An advisor helped me to identify the courses I needed to take during my first semester/quarter

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	4.1	4.9	3.2	3.89	3.77	3.96
2 = Disagree	7.7	10.8	7.4			
3 = Neutral	16.9	17.3	13.4			
4 = Agree	37.6	37.0	41.7			
5 = Strongly agree	33.6	30.0	34.3			

18h. A college staff member talked with me about my commitments outside of school (work, children, dependents, etc.) to help me figure out how many courses to take

Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	13.6	13.3	11.2	2.97	2.81	2.95
2 = Disagree	23.7	32.9	29.7			
3 = Neutral	27.2	24.1	25.4			
4 = Agree	22.6	18.5	20.6			
5 = Strongly agree	12.9	11.2	13.2			



5) High Expectations and Aspirations

★ High Expectations and Aspirations: Nearly all students arrive at their community colleges intending to succeed and believing that they have the motivation to do so. When entering students perceive clear, high expectations from college staff and faculty, they are more likely to understand what it takes to be successful and adopt behaviors that lead to achievement. Students then often rise to meet expectations, making it more likely that they will attain their goals. Often, students' aspirations also climb, and they seek more advanced credentials than they originally envisioned, (SENSE SCC 2017 Key Findings, page 2).

SCC's Benchmark Score of 47.8 is composed of the following questions:

Item 18: Think about your experiences from the time of your decision to attend this college through the end of the first three weeks of your first semester/quarter.

18b. The instructors at this college want me to succeed						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	-	0.2	0.2	4.44	4.28*	4.30*
2 = Disagree	0.8	0.5	0.6			
3 = Neutral	6.3	11.1	10.9			
4 = Agree	40.6	47.4	45.6			
5 = Strongly agree	52.3	40.8	42.7			

18t. I have the motivation to do what it takes to succeed in college						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	0.5	0.6	0.6	4.40	4.35	4.37
2 = Disagree	0.4	1.4	1.3			
3 = Neutral	9.6	10.8	10.3			
4 = Agree	38.1	36.8	36.5			
5 = Strongly agree	51.4	50.5	51.4			



18u. I am prepared academically to succeed in college						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	1.7	0.6	0.6	4.31	4.27	4.27
2 = Disagree	0.9	1.9	1.6			
3 = Neutral	9.9	13.4	13.3			
4 = Agree	39.0	37.7	39.7			
5 = Strongly agree	48.4	46.4	44.8			

Item 19: During the first three weeks of your first semester/quarter at this college, about how often did you do the following?

19c. Turn in an assignment late						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	55.0	57.8	63.8	1.64	1.58	1.47*
2 = Once	29.1	28.5	26.4			
3 = Two or three times	13.2	11.6	8.6			
4 = Four or more times	2.7	2.1	1.2			

19d. Not turn in an assignment						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	61.6	64.6	70.0	1.53	1.49	1.40
2 = Once	25.9	24.2	21.2			
3 = Two or three times	10.6	8.9	7.0			
4 = Four or more times	1.9	2.3	1.7			

19f. Come to class without completing readings or assignments						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	53.5	56.1	56.6	1.64	1.62	1.61
2 = Once	31.7	28.9	28.9			
3 = Two or three times	12.5	11.9	11.7			
4 = Four or more times	2.3	3.1	2.8			



19s. Skip class						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Never	72.1	76.7	76.5	1.40	1.32	1.32
2 = Once	17.9	16.3	16.2			
3 = Two or three times	8.5	5.8	6.0			
4 = Four or more times	1.6	1.2	1.3			

6) Early Connections

★ Early Connections: When students describe their early college experiences, they typically reflect on occasions when they felt discouraged or thought about dropping out. Their reasons for persisting almost always include one common element: a strong, early connection to someone at the college, (SENSE SCC 2017 Key Findings, page 2).

SCC's Benchmark Score of 45.0 is composed of the following questions:

Item 18: Think about your experiences from the time of your decision to attend this college through the end of the first three weeks of your first semester/quarter.

18a. The very first time I came to this college I felt welcome						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	0.5	0.4	0.6	4.11	4.06	4.05
2 = Disagree	2.4	1.5	1.7			
3 = Neutral	17.1	21.2	21.5			
4 = Agree	45.4	45.6	44.9			
5 = Strongly agree	34.5	31.4	31.3			

18i. The college provided me with adequate information about financial assistance (scholarships, grants, loans, etc.)						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	6.1	6.7	5.8	3.52	3.39	3.50
2 = Disagree	11.8	16.1	13.5			
3 = Neutral	26.6	26.7	26.0			
4 = Agree	35.3	32.3	33.9			
5 = Strongly agree	20.3	18.2	20.8			



18j. A college staff member helped me determine whether I qualified for financial assistance						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	14.2	13.1	9.6	2.89	2.94	3.10
2 = Disagree	25.6	27.6	25.2			
3 = Neutral	29.4	24.6	26.0			
4 = Agree	18.6	21.5	23.5			
5 = Strongly agree	12.1	13.1	15.6			

18p. At least one college staff member (other than an instructor) learned my name						
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent	SCC Mean	MCCCD Mean	National Sample Mean
1 = Strongly disagree	14.9	13.0	11.1	3.41	3.28	3.34
2 = Disagree	15.8	20.2	20.0			
3 = Neutral	15.6	17.8	18.4			
4 = Agree	21.1	24.0	25.5			
5 = Strongly agree	32.6	24.9	25.0			

23. Was a specific person assigned to you so you could see him/her each time you needed information or assistance?			
Response	SCC Percent	MCCCD Percent	National Sample Percent
Yes	12.2	16.2	33.0
No	87.8	83.8	67.0

