

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College
Effectiveness of General Education Diploma Program
2007 - 2008

Executive Summary

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College admitted 846 students for the Certificate of General Education Development (GED) in fall semester 2007. In general, GED students represent 10% of the overall student population. Of these, 96% received their GED certifications through the Adult Basic Skills and GED preparation programs offered by Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

GED-admitted students have lower academic performance than the general student population. In fall 2007, the average GPA of all GED-admitted students was 2.44 as compared to 2.60 for the overall student body.

The graduating class of 2008 contained 155 GED-admitted students, 10% of the overall graduating class. The proportion of graduates and enrollment suggests that GED-admitted students have no less or higher risks associated with retention and persistence than the general student population.

Enrollment

The enrollment of GED students for the recent fall semesters is shown below. GED students represent 10% of the overall student population. In fall 2007, GED enrolled students were 64% female and 36% male. Ethnic composition is given in Table 2. During fall 2007, the ethnicity of enrolled GED students was: 78% White, 16% Black, 2% Hispanic, 1% American Indian, and 2% Asian or Pacific Islander.

TABLE I. GED ENROLLMENT AND TRANSITION

PROGRAM	FALL 2005		FALL 2006		FALL 2007	
	ENROLL	GED FROM MGCCC	ENROLL	GED FROM MGCCC	ENROLL	GED FROM MGCCC
University Parallel	513	95%	534	94%	502	95%
Technical	222	97%	241	96%	255	97%
Career	74	100%	98	99%	89	99%
Totals	809	96%	873	95%	846	96%

TABLE 2. ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF GED ENROLLMENT

Ethnic Group	Fall 2005		Fall 2006		Fall 2007	
	N	PCT	N	PCT	N	PCT
Black	125	15%	145	17%	139	16%
White	647	80%	690	79%	663	78%
Hispanic	21	3%	13	1%	15	2%
American Indian	8	1%	11	1%	12	1%
Asian	8	1%	14	2%	17	2%
Totals	809		873		846	

Performance

In general, the GPA of all GED-admitted students is significantly lower than the student population. In Table 3, the average GPAs of GED students and the general student population is shown for the past three fall semesters.

TABLE 3. AVERAGE GPA OF GED AND GENERAL STUDENT POPULATIONS

GPA	Fall 2005		Fall 2006		Fall 2007	
	GED	MGCCC	GED	MGCCC	GED	MGCCC
	2.21	2.63	2.40	2.57	2.44	2.60

Completion

The completion of GED students for the graduating classes 2006, 2007 and 2008 is shown in Table 4. In 2008, 155 GED-admitted students graduated from Gulf Coast, of these 124 received associate degrees. GED-admitted students represented 10% of the overall graduating class.

TABLE 4. DEGREES AWARDED TO GED-ADMITTED STUDENTS

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
AA	43	54	63
AAS	65	55	55
AASOE	12	10	6
Certificate	3	5	3
Diploma	47	34	28
Total Associate Degrees	120	119	124
Total Awards	170	158	155

Summary

Over 95% of GED-admitted students are from preparation programs sponsored by the College.

In fall 2007, GED-admitted students represented 10% of the overall student body.

GED-admitted students tend to have lower academic performance than the general student body.

In 2008, GED-admitted students represented 10% of all graduates from Gulf Coast.