SSC Assessment Committee News

Welcome once again, to the *Assessment of Student Learning Committee Campus Newsletter***! Next fall the committee will be using its new name,** *Institutional Assessment Committee***.**

Where can you find Assessment Information?

Information can be found on the Office of Institutional Effectiveness webpage**.**

Information located here consists of campus reports and other information pertaining to campus data and procedures. This should be easy to navigate and, before long, each report should have a uniform look. Our goal is to provide campus with easy to navigate institutional data reports and other statistical information.

Higher Learning Commission

Update

Administration, faculty, and staff are working diligently finishing a 4-year updated Assurance Argument that will be submitted and reviewed by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the accrediting body for our institution. The Assurance Argument will be reviewed this summer (2024) and is a formal "Check-In" by HLC to ensure our institution is still meeting all the criteria to stay accredited. A larger review by HLC happens every 10 years. The SSC 10-year review will happen in 2030.

2023 Degree Program Reviews

Each fall, on a rotating five-year schedule, SSC submits a Degree Program Review to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education detailing enrollment, costs, graduation rates, etc.… for different degree programs. In fall of 2023, SSC submitted the Degree Program Reviews for Computer Science, Pre-Engineering, and Psychology. These three reports are now located on the Office of Institutional Effectiveness webpage. We asked each program to give a quick summary of their respective degree programs to share with the campus, so you don't need to read the report to find out how amazing each of these degree programs are.

Computer Science Associate of Science Degree Program

Seminole State College's Associate of Science degree in Computer Science recently completed several course modifications and updates in addition to adding one new course in Digital Forensics. Existing courses were revamped ensuring that coursework reflected current industry standards. This is critical in the computer science realm as many pathways exist and various skills make up the different pathways, yet many pathways overlap. The degree includes five core courses, and each was updated as needed. The core courses consist of Computer Logic and Flowcharting, C++ I, C++ II, Script Programming, and Information Security. For now, students choose two additional computer science courses as electives. Among these electives, Web Programming using HTML and Ethics in Information Technology were also updated. Hardware Systems Support is currently being updated and piloted while Digital Forensics is being developed and piloted. In the future, students will have the option of selecting one of three emphases, Security, Programming, or Esports. Current degree revision efforts will culminate in the addition of four new courses in Esports. Additionally, computer labs have been updated with state-of-the-art computers.
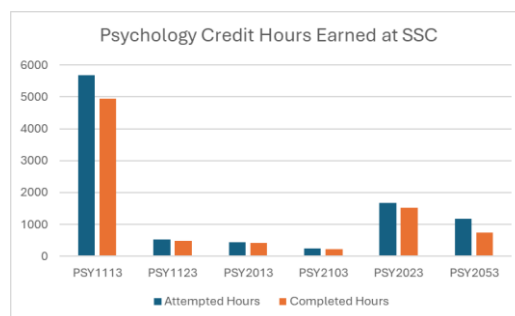
The world of computer science, and its many subfields, is an ever moving target. Not only are industry-driven updates all but mandated, but other fields emerge sometimes without warning such as what is happening today in machine learning and artificial intelligence. SSC's Computer Science program employs one fulltime faculty member, Dr. Ricky Streight, and two adjunct instructors, Donald McDowell and Christopher Gootos, each with various degrees, certifications, and years of experience in their respective field(s). While many curriculum changes have occurred, many more are likely as the computer science universe expands and SSC rises to the challenge of providing students with the needed knowledge and insight.

Pre-Engineering Associate of Science Degree Program

Since 2018, Professor Tollett (Professor of Math/ Science/ Engineering and Degree Program Mentor) had an average of 29.4 students per year declaring Pre-Engineering as a Major and has graduated 24 students (averaging 4.8 graduates per year). This is a low productivity program according to the minimal threshold set forth by the OSRHE but nationally Engineering is considered a high attrition rate program due to rigorous coursework such as Physics and Calculus (which constitutes about 29 hours of the degree plan). Efforts are being made to add tutoring and more direct instruction in pre-requirement courses like MATH 1513. There have been 87 courses offered since 2018, generating 2916 credit hours for SSC (roughly 82% of the attempted hours for the same period in review). Only the Introduction to Engineering course is specifically engineering (but counts for a few majors) and generated 216 Earned Credit Hours for the period in review. Typical graduates of SSC in Pre-Engineering transfer to OSU, UCO, and OU engineering departments, with typical graduates entering Electrical or Mechanical Engineering fields. Not all graduates transfer within state, such as former Trojan Baseball player Maddux Solomon (graduate within the 2018-2023 review period) which had this to say, "After my associates, I went to Southern Arkansas University to get my bachelor's in physics and engineering and recently graduated this semester… Seminole State College is very fortunate to have a professor (Tollett) of your caliber."

Psychology Associate of Science Degree Program

Since 2018, Professor Knowles (Professor of Social Sciences and Degree Program Mentor) had an average of 58.4 students per year declaring Psychology as a Major and has graduated 79 students (averaging 15.8 graduates per year). This is nearly three times the minimal threshold set forth by the OSRHE and is an amazing example of the work the full-time and adjunct psychology faculty have done with SSC. There have been 568 Psychology courses offered since 2018, generating 24,906 credit hours for SSC (roughly 85% of the attempted hours in Psychology for the same period in review). Observation of the graph below, attempted hours in comparison to the credit hours earned, shows students are completing these courses at incredibly high rates. These courses also generate hours for General Education at SSC, assisting many other Degree Programs.

As an added bonus, you should check out the Transfer Reports for greater details, but here is a quick breakdown of how our SSC students perform when transferring to other institutions. As transfer students, the students face different issues that might affect their grades such as larger class sizes, potentially more impersonal interactions, and adjustments to new situations and settings. In spite of these aforementioned setbacks, according to the range of results in the transfer report, SSC students are competitive with the overall student body with a Course Completion Rate of 91.8% and are achieving slightly higher GPAs compared to the student body GPA at the receiving institutions. Considering that many SSC students begin college unprepared, the transfer students perform well in comparison to the other students at the four-year institutions.