

# Career Colleges: Hard at Work for Florida

Schools of choice for more than 370,000 students seeking to improve their lives



## Preparing Floridians for New Careers

The Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and Colleges (FAPSC) works on behalf of more than 900 career schools and colleges. Licensed by the state, these schools educate and prepare more than 370,000 students each year for employment in more than 200 occupational fields.

### Degree-Granting Institutions

- Estimated enrollment: 302,500
- 369 degree-granting institutions
- 325 (90%) schools are accredited

### Non-degree Granting Institutions

- Estimated enrollment: 77,200
- 552 non-degree granting institutions
- 142 (23%) schools are accredited

To learn more about career colleges and programs, write to Kathy Mizereck, executive director, at [kathy@fapsc.org](mailto:kathy@fapsc.org). You may also visit the FAPSC website at [www.fapsc.org](http://www.fapsc.org).

Career colleges are hard at work for Florida, educating students for jobs in many of the state's top-growing occupations.

Even in today's challenging economy, they are held accountable by accreditors and regulators to find students jobs with placement rates ranging from 60% to 80%. In the healthcare field alone, these Florida schools are producing 60% of the state's credentialed workforce. Career colleges help Floridians achieve their dreams, from world-class chefs to law enforcement officers, from business managers to nurses.

"Career colleges are Florida's higher education business partners," says Kathy Mizereck, executive director of the Florida Association of Postsecondary Schools and

Colleges (FAPSC). "We are the taxpaying schools. Our association works on behalf of the 900 schools licensed by the state that provide an array of career training and advanced education. You can find our graduates in many of Florida's workforce growth occupations."

### Career colleges provide significant economic benefits for students, employers and the state

**Pays off for graduates:** Education and training lead to better-paying jobs that add up to substantially higher earnings over a lifetime. For many graduates from lower income households, a certificate or degree will boost annual incomes by an average of \$8,000, according to a recent study by the Parthenon Group.

**Meets workforce needs:** For employers, the schools annually graduate more than 100,000 skilled, job-ready students for careers as wide ranging as court reporters, radiology technicians, computer animators and sea captains. Among higher education providers, career colleges are the source of the largest share of graduates for jobs in Florida's most in-demand sectors, including information technology, legal assistance, transportation and allied health sciences, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

**Delivers economic benefits:** Career colleges offer choices for students who then become a significant portion of Florida's workforce. The annual bottom-line value for the state is significant, says

# “Career colleges are Florida’s higher education business partners.”

– FAPSC Executive Director Kathy Mizereck

a report by Mangum Economic Consulting, including:

- \$765 million resulting from the higher workforce productivity of employees with advanced education
- \$131 million in local, state and federal income taxes paid by Florida’s career schools
- \$1.6 billion in savings of the estimated cost for the state university system to educate the 370,000 students annually attending career colleges.

## Evolving with the marketplace

For more than five decades, Florida employers have relied on career colleges as a primary resource for postsecondary education for the state’s front-line workers. Schools offer certificates, diplomas, associate degrees, bachelor’s degrees, master’s degrees and doctorates.

“Career college programs have adapted over the years — evolving along with Florida’s economy, collaborating with employers to include real-world applied learning in our curriculum, and expanding programs to offer the most choice possible to meet students’ goals,” says Wayne A. Slater, president of the FAPSC board of directors.

The student population at these schools is diverse — with 51% ethnic minorities. The average age is 27. Many are working moms and dads who need flexibility as they go to school to upgrade and refine on-the-job skills.

## Keeping the focus on students

Career colleges are collaborating through their membership on the new Higher Education Coordinating Council (HECC) to achieve the overall objectives of employability, productivity and access for all of Florida’s students.

Chief among the policy issues advanced by career colleges are accountability and transfer of credit. Mizereck encourages development of a higher education report card on key measurements, such as graduation and retention rates, using common definitions and calculations toward better accountability across all institutions. Also, improvement to the system that manages credit transfers is critical for all students at all schools, she says.

“Any time a student repeats a course at a public institution it costs the student and the taxpayer,” Mizereck says.

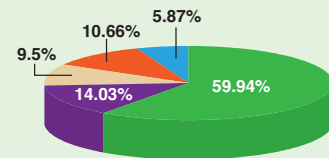
The end goal is for students to be able to choose the programs they want, graduate in a timely manner and get to work for Florida.

“In the new decade and in the face of a changing economy, the leadership of Florida is focused on getting Floridians back to work. Higher education plays a critical role in achieving those goals, and our schools are ready to work with the state and other institutions to get there,” she says.

# Putting Floridians to Work

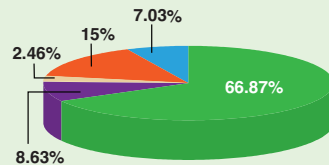
Career colleges lead the way in producing graduates for the most in-demand jobs:

## Health & Allied Health Sciences



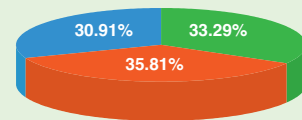
Total Graduates: 70,373

## Computer Science & IT



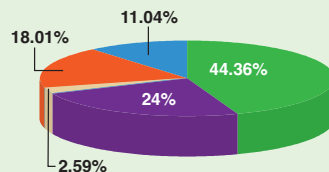
Total Graduates: 9,382

## Business/Management (MA/MS-PhD)



Total Graduates: 10,490

## Legal Court Reporter, Paralegal



Total Graduates: 1,621

- Career Colleges & Schools
- State Colleges
- Technical Centers
- State University System
- Independent Colleges & Universities of Florida

## Funding

### HOW CAREER COLLEGES ARE FUNDED

Schools:

- Receive no direct taxpayer subsidies
- Pay more than \$131 million annually in local, state and federal taxes

Students:

- Pay the full cost of their education
- Many participate in federal financial aid programs
- Receive \$20.4 million – or just 3 percent – of the state financial aid budget

### Where State Financial Aid Goes (08-09)

