Established in 1929, Santa Monica College serves a diverse population of approximately 51,000 students annually; including California residents, out-of-state, and international students. The college has one of the strongest reputations for transfer in California and transfers the highest number of students in total to the University of California, the University of Southern California, and other four-year universities.

Santa Monica College demonstrates above average performance in relation to the state on five of the seven college performance indicators. These include: student progress and achievement rate, percent of students earning 30 units, fall to fall persistence rate, ESL improvement rate, and the basic skills improvement rate. With regard to vocational course completion, in-depth analyses of college and state level data reveal substantive differences between the number and type of vocational offerings at SMC and that of the state. As a result, the college examines and assesses its performance on this measure in terms of improvement over time rather than in relation to the state benchmark.

The college also exhibits improved performance over its baseline year in all seven performance indicators. Substantive increases in performance are also observed in the student progress and achievement rate, the percent of students earning 30 units, the fall to fall persistence rate, the ESL improvement rate, and the Basic Skills improvement rate.

SMC’s above average performance on the majority of measures is related to its tradition of integrating student support services with instruction. Counseling programs focusing on the first year assist students through the transition to college as well as with proper educational planning to meet future goals. The college offers over 19 specialized counseling programs such as the Latino Center, the African American Collegiate Center, specialized financial aid counselors, and a Scholars program. Above average progress and achievement rates are attributable to the resources invested in student success, high quality instruction and instructional support, and the implementation of innovative and effective student services.

Vocational education and Basic Skills remain areas of focus for SMC. The college is engaged in examining relevant student performance data in an effort to identify gateway courses and provide relevant and effective support services for students.

Positively, the college experienced a nearly three percent increase in the basic skills improvement rate over the baseline year and a nearly one percent improvement in the basic skills successful completion rate. The college is expanding access to instruction for developmental students and addressing student outcomes through various student support and instructional initiatives. Through its student success programs and Institutional Research Office the college is actively engaged in establishing outcomes assessment for the program components that are part of the Basic Skills Initiative. It is anticipated that high coordination, focused attention on these students’ needs, and outcomes assessment of the BSI program components will result in improved outcomes for students. As well, the college is participating in the statewide initiative to examine and update course coding processes to ensure accuracy related to ARCC measures in the Basic Skills area.