



# SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## BACKGROUND

South Texas College was selected as one of three community colleges in Texas by the 78th Legislature (2003) to pilot offering a maximum of **five** applied baccalaureate degrees. During the 80th Legislature in (2007), the pilot status was removed, but the maximum limit of **five applied baccalaureate degrees** was maintained. Currently, South Texas College, Brazosport College, Midland College, and Tyler Junior College are the only Texas Community Colleges accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and authorized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer baccalaureate degrees.

## ACCESS AND SUCCESS

Offering baccalaureate degree programs at South Texas College (STC) over the last 10 years has significantly impacted student access and success. The first four degrees were established between 2005 and 2014, and in 2019, the fifth bachelor, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, was submitted for approval.

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS		YEAR ESTABLISHED
1	Technology Management	2005
2	Computer & Information Technologies	2008
3	Medical & Health Services Management	2011
4	Organizational Leadership – Competency Based	2014
5	Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)	2018 - submitted for review and approval to Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) 2019 - submitted for review and approval to Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and Texas Board of Nursing (TBoN)

The Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership, a Competency-Based program, was developed in partnership with Texas A&M University-Commerce (TAMUC). It was funded by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the College for All Texans Foundation (CFAT) as a part of EDUCAUSE Next Generations Learning Challenges (NGLC) Wave III Grant. During the past academic year, South Texas College has converted the other three bachelor programs to Competency-Based, in addition to the traditional and online formats.

Over 1,800 students have earned bachelor's degrees with a notable number of them choosing to pursue post-baccalaureate degrees at the master's level and beyond. Moreover, all four baccalaureate programs have increased access for Hispanic students and have contributed to the goals of *Closing the Gaps* and the new Texas Higher Education Strategic Plan: 60x30TX, by raising higher education participation rates for Hispanic students and increasing the number of students earning bachelor's degrees.

## STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

The following are student demographics based on data collected for Fall 2018 of students enrolled in upper-level courses in the baccalaureate programs.

STATUS	
Full Time	61%
Part Time	39%

GENDER	
Female	55%
Male	45%

DIVERSITY	
Hispanic	93%
White	4%
Unknown	3%

AGE	
18-24	31%
25-34	42%
35-44	19%
45-54	7%
55 and over	1%

## ENROLLMENT (Unduplicated Student Headcount)

EIGHT YEAR BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT UNDUPLICATED HEADCOUNT ENROLLMENT Fall Semester								
	2005	2008	2011	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Technology Management	14	136	203	134	165	133	136	104
Computer and Information Technologies		69	95	123	115	141	162	176
Medical and Health Services Management			45	168	130	123	121	144
Organizational Leadership				48	103	351	234	308
<b>TOTAL ENROLLMENT</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>513</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>732</b>



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## PERSISTENCE (Fall to Fall)

Fall to Fall persistence for 2017-2018 Academic Year has ranged from **68%** to **96%**. Persistence rates have remained robust even with the substantial enrollment increases in each program.

FALL TO FALL PERSISTENCE 2011 - 2018								
	Fall 2010 to Fall 2011	Fall 2011 to Fall 2012	Fall 2012 to Fall 2013	Fall 2013 to Fall 2014	Fall 2014 to Fall 2015	Fall 2015 to Fall 2016	Fall 2016 to Fall 2017	Fall 2017 to Fall 2018
Technology Management	76%	77%	86%	75%	88%	82%	77%	94%
Computer and Information Technologies	88%	80%	94%	76%	70%	89%	96%	64%
Medical and Health Services Management		66%	80%	90%	88%	82%	68%	64%
Organizational Leadership					87%	84%	79%	86%

## GRADUATION

Over **1,800** students have earned bachelor's degrees from South Texas College since the programs began. These graduates have contributed significantly to the *Closing the Gaps* goals. These degrees, for most students, build on successful completion of an associate of applied science degree and create a seamless academic pathway.

Source: South Texas College Research & Analytical Services

BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM GRADUATES 2007 - 2018													
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
TMGT	14	39	63	64	69	75	55	65	51	51	50	66	<b>662</b>
CIT			23	31	49	36	34	17	23	23	27	43	<b>306</b>
MHSM							35	64	85	81	55	54	<b>374</b>
OL									39	91	187	195	<b>512</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>1,854</b>

## TIME TO COMPLETION

TIME TO COMPLETION FOR UPPER LEVEL COURSES		
PROGRAM	2 Years	3 Years
Technology Management	69.8%	90.6%
Computer & Information Technologies	57.8%	83.0%
Medical & Health Services Management	81.8%	93.9%
Organizational Leadership	94.7%	95.5%

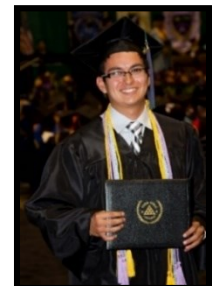
## EMPLOYMENT

The following are the employment rates based on the number of graduates. Even with higher enrollment, the baccalaureate programs demonstrate an employment rate of **77%** to **83%**.

Source: Texas Higher Education Data – Gainful Employment – Placement Rate

EMPLOYMENT RATES						
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Technology Management	76%	89%	90%	73%	78%**	81%**
Organizational Leadership						
Computer & Information Technologies	88%	78%	85%	88%	83%	83%
Medical & Health Services Management			77%	80%	79%	77%

\*\*In 2015, Technology Management & Organizational Leadership Instructional programs were classified under one area in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Gainful Employment-Placement Rate





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## TRANSFER TO GRADUATE PROGRAMS

South Texas College's Research and Analytical Services, in collaboration with the National Student Clearinghouse, tracks bachelor program cohort graduates who continue their education at other Higher Education Institutions.

TRANSFER TO GRADUATE PROGRAMS 2007 - 2017			
PROGRAM	GRADUATES	TRANSFERS	TRANSFERS %
Technology Management	596	121	20%
Computer & Information Technologies	263	57	22%
Medical & Health Services Management	320	87	27%
Organizational Leadership	317	39	12%

*Source: South Texas College Research & Analytical Services & National Student Clearinghouse*

## FACULTY WITH DOCTORAL DEGREES

Of the 1,093 full-time and adjunct faculty at South Texas College, **14%** or **157** have doctoral degrees and an additional 86% or 936 have master's degrees.

## FACULTY COSTS (Salaries & Benefits)

All faculty at STC, including those teaching in the baccalaureate programs, are paid according to a Board approved salary schedule, which takes into consideration experience and education. The teaching load is 15 lecture hour equivalents and focuses on teaching excellence.

## FORMULA FUNDING

The following table represents total state appropriations for all programs based on upper division student credit hours during the enrollment base period.

STATE FUNDING PER FISCAL YEAR BIENNIUM Based on Credit Hour Reimbursement Formula Funding	
FY 2008 to FY 2009	\$203,535
FY 2010 to FY 2011	\$662,594
FY 2012 to FY 2013	\$710,532
FY 2014 to FY 2015	\$1,124,948
FY 2016 to FY 2017	\$1,610,214
FY 2018 to FY 2019	\$1,455,633

## SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS

\$1.2 million was appropriated for start-up costs of up to five applied baccalaureate degree programs. Funds were used to acquire library resources, software, technology, instructional materials, and equipment for computer labs to support five applied baccalaureate degree programs.

## TAXPAYER INVESTMENT

Local revenue from taxpayers of South Texas College's taxing district of Hidalgo and Starr counties funded facilities, infrastructure, operations, and maintenance costs of the institution and has accommodated the baccalaureate degrees without additional expense to local taxpayers. The baccalaureate program is designed to meet the workforce development needs of specific industries requiring a highly skilled and specifically prepared workforce. The investment by local taxpayers in a BAT degreed labor force helps attract new companies to the region that will employ personnel into high-wage and high-demand occupations. This is a good investment for local taxpayers and the State of Texas.

*"The economic future of South Texas, to a great extent, will be influenced by our ability to increase the educational level and competitive workforce skills of all residents of Hidalgo and Starr counties."*

*- Dr. Shirley A. Reed, President  
South Texas College*





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## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

South Texas College has played a key role in the Community College Baccalaureate (CCB) movement in Texas. In 2002, South Texas College, along with educational leaders from several community colleges, began exploring the possibility of offering baccalaureate degrees. There were unique factors that united the leadership of these community colleges to pursue the development of CCB degrees.

The most important factor and the driving force for the movement was the need to create a **seamless pathway to baccalaureate degree attainment for mostly nontraditional students who graduate with Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degrees**. In addition, the same strength that assisted the development of CCB degrees in other states, was also in place in Texas, which **increased the demand by regional employers for employees with applied bachelor's degrees**.

To pursue their vision of offering baccalaureate degrees, the leadership at several community colleges joined together to **identify and establish local needs for applied baccalaureate degrees in their respective service areas**. With local data on hand, the college leaders were able to recruit local and state representatives who were willing to champion this important cause during the next legislative session. Their vision became a reality when in 2003, Texas legislators passed **Senate Bill (SB) 286 during the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session** that established a pilot project and expanded the program offering authority of **Brazosport College, Midland College, and South Texas College** to include bachelor's degrees in the applied science and applied technology fields.

On June 20, 2003, Governor Rick Perry signed SB 286 into law. This bill, authored by Senator Eliot Shapleigh and sponsored by Representative Geanie Morrison, amended Subchapter A, Chapter 130, Texas Education Code, by adding Section 130.0012 *Pilot Project: Baccalaureate Degree Programs*, which required the THECB to establish a pilot project authorizing three Texas community colleges to confer baccalaureate degrees.

## KEY EVENTS

2019	STC submitted for review and approval the <b>fifth</b> baccalaureate degree for <b>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</b> .
2018	All four Bachelor Programs were converted as Competency-Based, in addition to the traditional and online formats.
2017	STC named a <b>National Winner of Excelencia in Education</b> for the Competency-Based Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership Program.
2017	Passage of SB 2118 during the 85 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Session granted South Texas College the legislative authority to offer the <b>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</b> . (Pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.)
2016	OnlineU.org named South Texas College's BAT in Computer & Information Technologies, the second <b>most affordable online baccalaureate degree program in the nation</b> .
2016	STC created a Bachelor Program scholarship through the Valley Scholars Program.
2015	STC Received approval to establish a chapter of <b>The National Society of Leadership and Success</b> for to all Bachelor Program students.
2015	All four Bachelor Programs were developed 100% online via South Texas College Online (Virtual Campus).
2014	STC began to offer its fourth Bachelor's Degree in <b>Organizational Leadership</b> .
2011	STC began to offer its third Bachelor's Degree in <b>Medical &amp; Health Services Management</b> .
2008	STC began to offer its second Bachelor's Degree in <b>Computer &amp; Information Technologies</b> .
2007	HB 2198, 80 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, removed pilot status. This bill made the authority to offer baccalaureate degrees permanent.
2005	STC began to offer a Bachelor of Applied Technology degree in <b>Technology Management</b> .
2004	Southern Association of Colleges & Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) accredited STC as a <b>Level II Institution-Baccalaureate Degree</b> .
2004	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the Bachelor of Applied Technology in Technology Management.
2004	The College changed its name from South Texas Community College (STCC) to South Texas College (STC).
2003	Senate Bill 286, Section 50, authorized three community colleges in Texas to pilot the offering of applied baccalaureate degrees.

## ACCREDITATION

*South Texas College is a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and received its initial accreditation in 1995 as a Level I institution, which enabled college administrators to award Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, and Associate of Applied Science degrees and certificates. In 2004, STC received accreditation as a Level II institution, which expanded the authority of the college to include awarding bachelor's degrees.*