

Worcester State College

Founded in 1874, Worcester State College is dedicated to offering high-quality, affordable undergraduate and graduate academic programs and to promoting global awareness, lifelong intellectual growth, and career opportunities. The College values teaching excellence, cooperates with regional businesses, social and cultural resources, and higher education institutions, and develops new programs responsive to emerging community needs.

COLLABORATIONS

- The Worcester Pipeline Collaborative is a new joint effort between WSC, the Worcester Public Schools, Quinsigamond Community College, the University of Massachusetts Medical School and Abbott Labs. The Pipeline's mission is to increase the number of underrepresented group members in the health care professions by providing mentoring, tutoring, advising, internships and job shadowing opportunities in science. The effort is designed to guide students through the public schools to our colleges, and beyond to medical school, the biotechnology industry or other health and allied health professions.
- Popularized by television dramas, forensics involves a number of scientific principles that are used to solve crimes. Exploring forensics engages students in studying science. Many scientific topics central to forensics—genetics, cell biology, anatomy and physiology, chemistry and physics—are included in the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks. As a result, the workshop Forensics in the Classroom was developed to allow teachers from the Worcester Public Schools to spend five days doing forensics-based laboratory inquiry. Upon completion of the workshop, teachers used some of the experiences in their own classrooms to provide an alternative avenue to excite students about science.
- WSC and Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science (MCPHS) have a new affiliation agreement that admits students into an articulated program beginning with three years at WSC in biology, biotechnology, chemistry or natural science, and concluding with the three-year accelerated Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) program at MCPHS. Up to ten qualified WSC students are guaranteed admission to MCPHS annually. Upon completion of the first year at MCPHS, students will earn a bachelor's degree from WSC; the PharmD is granted after three years at MCPHS. This partnership helps to open career opportunities to WSC students and to address regional workforce demands.
- Worcester State College is an active member of Central Links, a consortium of the four central Massachusetts state colleges (Quinsigamond and Mount Wachusett Community Colleges, Fitchburg State College, and WSC). To ease mathematics transfer and better prepare students in this vital area, the Central Links Colleges, led by the WSC Mathematics Department, are collaboratively developing a common, rigorous, college-level math course that will reflect agreement about the content and structure of such a course. The course built on shared expertise and novel collaboration, will be a model for transferability, and offer common expectations to ease adjustment from one campus to another.

Program of DISTINCTION

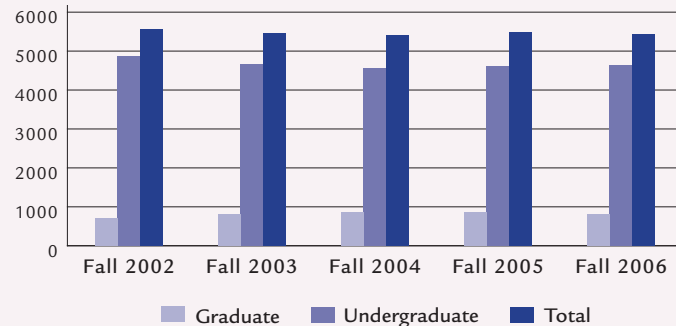
Green chemistry promotes the reduction or elimination of hazardous substances in chemical processes and is an integral part of training students to solve problems that face the world today. WSC has systematically implemented green chemistry principles into its curriculum over the past five years. National and international green chemistry research collaboration has promoted the College's mission worldwide and has exposed students to new thinking about sustainability and global environmental issues. Local industry, the American Chemical Society, and other academic institutions have encouraged green chemistry. At WSC, this program involves all science majors, as well as some first year students, and saves the significant cost to transport and dispose of toxic and hazardous waste. Moreover, the elimination of toxic reagents and flammable solvents stored on site makes the campus a safer and more environmentally responsible environment.

- The Intergenerational Urban Institute (IUI) at WSC channels the energies of college students of all ages in service to the community. As part of its hunger initiative, WSC's IUI hosted a series of fall 2007 public forums, Food For Thought, to highlight the underlying causes of hunger in our community and our world. In collaboration with Worcester County Food Bank, the Academy of Public Service at South High, Project Bread, Community Harvest, and sponsored in part by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, the series involved national and local experts in lively community dialogues about hunger, food policies and promising solutions. WSC students and faculty welcomed the opportunity to engage in these thought-provoking dialogues.

I. ACCESS TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

Access Indicators*	
FALL ENROLLMENT	
Fall 2006 Headcount:	4,626 Undergrad. 814 Graduate
Fall 2006 FTE:	3,618 Undergrad. 321 Graduate
<i>Results: Over the last three years, fall headcount enrollment has remained relatively stable, and fall FTE enrollment has increased 3.8%.</i>	
ANNUAL ENROLLMENT	
FY2007 Headcount:	6,165 Undergrad. 2,692 Graduate
FY2007 FTE:	3,905 Undergrad. 668 Graduate
<i>Results: Over the last three years, annual headcount enrollment has declined 3.9%, and annual FTE enrollment has increased 2.0%.</i>	
MINORITY ENROLLMENT	
Minority Enrollment Percentage in Fall 2006:	13.7%
<i>Results: Above the Central Region's minority representation of 9.5%.</i>	
CC TRANSFER STUDENTS	
Fall 2006 Community College Transfer Students:	245
<i>Results: Over the last three years, the number of community college transfer students has increased 18.4%.</i>	

Fall Enrollment: Headcount



II: AFFORDABILITY OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGES

Affordability Indicators*	
% OF MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME	
Tuition and fees as a percent of median family income in FY2007:	7.4%
<i>Results: Below the Northeast regional average of 9.3%.</i>	

Tuition and Fees as a Percent of Median Income

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007
Tuition and fees	\$3,273	\$4,123	\$4,579	\$5,080	\$5,540
State median family income (SMFI)	\$66,922	\$67,527	\$68,701	\$71,655	\$74,463
Tuition and fees as % of SMFI	4.9%	6.1%	6.7%	7.1%	7.4%
Segment avg. tuition and fees as % of SMFI	5.5%	6.7%	7.3%	7.5%	7.8%
Northeast avg. tuition and fees as % of SMFI			9.2%	9.3%	9.3%

* See Technical Guide (pages 41–42) for indicator methodology and details.

III: STUDENT SUCCESS AND ACADEMIC QUALITY

Success and Quality Indicators*	
FIRST-YEAR RETENTION	
Fall 2005 Cohort First-Year Retention Rate:	73.8%
<i>Results: Comparable to the segmental rate of 73.5% and the national rate of 73.7%, but above the peer retention rate of 70.9%.</i>	
SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATE	
1998–2000 Cohort Six-Year Graduation Rate (3-year average):	41.2%
<i>Results: Below the segmental rate of 47.9% but above the institutional peer rate of 34.8%.</i>	
DEGREES CONFERRED	
Total Degrees Conferred in FY2007:	1,077
<i>Results: Average degrees conferred per year over the last three years: 1,038.</i>	
MTEL PASS RATE	
2006 Pass Rate for the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure:	99%
Number of Passing Students:	97
<i>Results: Above the target pass rate of 80%.</i>	
SPECIAL ADMISSION STUDENTS	
Percent of New Students who were Special Admits in Fall 2006:	8.8%
<i>Results: Meets the Board of Higher Education's requirement of enrolling less than 10% special admissions students per year. (See Appendix for BHE admissions policies.)</i>	

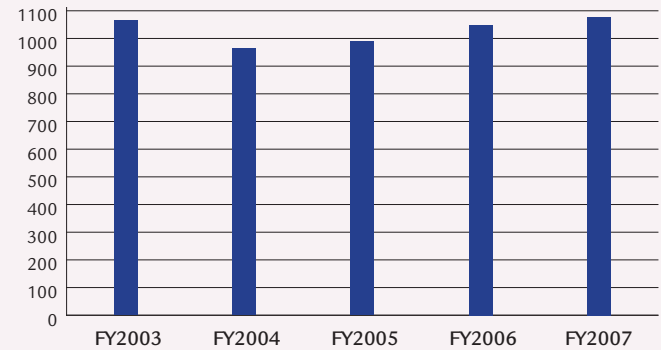
First-Year Retention Rate (Fall-to-Fall)

Entering Cohort	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Institution Rate	73.9%	72.3%	70.6%	75.1%	73.8%
Peer Avg. Rate			71.0%	73.2%	70.9%
Segment Avg. Rate	72.9%	74.6%	75.2%	76.2%	73.5%
National Avg. Rate			74.3%	74.0%	73.7%

Six-Year Graduation Rate

Entering Cohort	1997	1998	1999	2000	Rolling Avg. 1998–00
Institution Rate	40.5%	43.2%	43.5%	36.9%	41.2%
Peer Avg. Rate	33.5%	33.5%	35.9%	34.9%	34.8%
Segment Avg. Rate	45.5%	47.6%	47.2%	48.9%	47.9%

Degrees Conferred

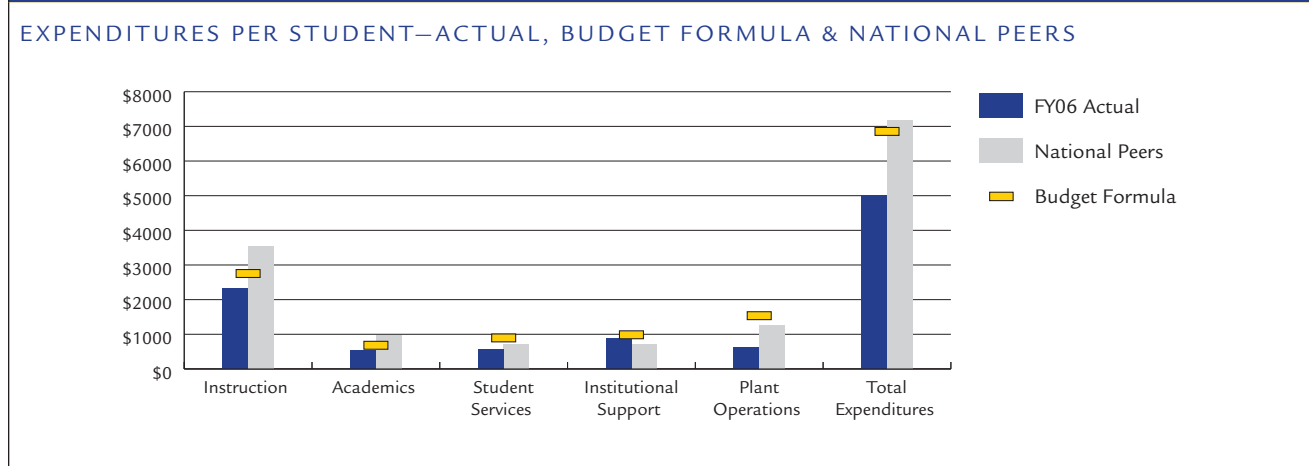


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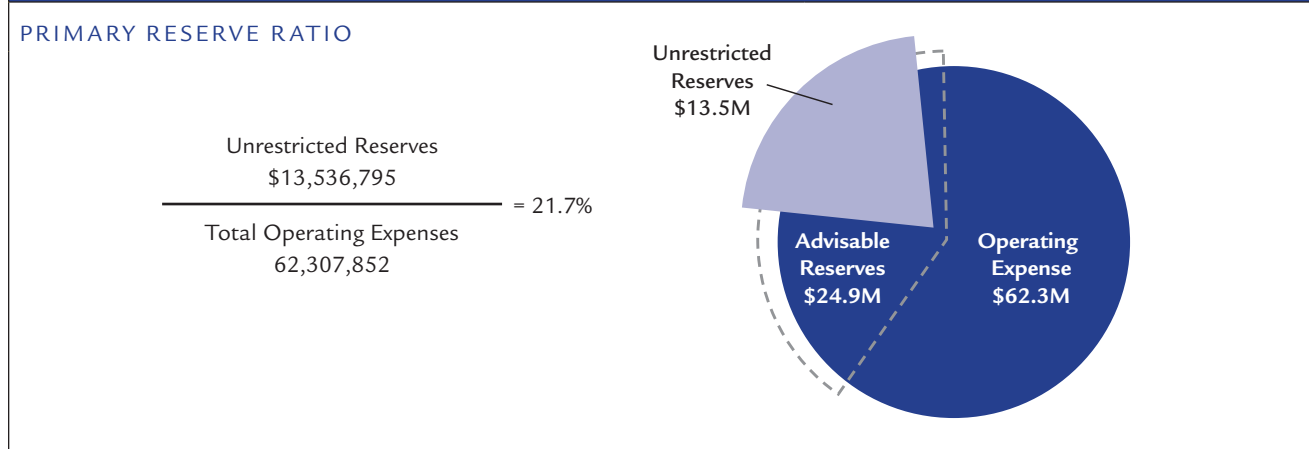
IV: EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES

Efficiency and Innovation *	Compliance *
<p>EFFECTIVE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES</p> <p>Implemented a recycling program, resulting in the recycling of 82 tons of paper, cardboard, glass and plastic containers. In addition, 40 tons of surplus furniture and equipment has been sent to a national clearinghouse for re-use.</p> <p>Partnered with Central Links institutions (Quinsigamond, Mt. Wachusett, Fitchburg, and Worcester) to pool deferred maintenance funds. Issued and awarded a joint RFP for concrete repairs on each campus, resulting in efficiency in procurement and economies of scale.</p> <p>Provided through the Foundation over \$847,000 in support to the College for its programs and students, the largest contribution since the establishment of the Foundation.</p> <p>Raised \$1,130,710 through private fundraising.</p>	<p>ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT</p> <p><i>No material weaknesses based on annual external independent audit:</i></p> <p>2007</p> <p>2006</p> <p>2005</p> <p>2004</p> <p>2003</p>

Resource Allocation *



Financial Health Indicator *



* See Technical Guide (pages 41–42) for indicator methodology and details.