



MS Complete 2 Compete Initiative

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- Complete 2 Compete is a statewide program focused on encouraging Mississippi adults who have completed some college, but no degree, to return to college and complete the requirements necessary to earn their degrees.
- C2C is designed for any adult learner who:
 - has completed some college-level coursework,
 - is at least 21 years of age,
 - has been out of college at least 24 consecutive months, and
 - has not completed a postsecondary degree.
- Mississippi residents meeting above criteria are eligible to apply for tuition assistance grants even if they attended out-of-state or private institutions before applying to Complete 2 Compete.
- Out-of-state adults who previously attended a Mississippi public institution are eligible to participate in Complete 2 Compete but will not be eligible for tuition assistance grants.
- Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), the Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB), and the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) are partners in the effort to identify target groups, implement adult learner services, and re-engage adult students to help them complete their degrees.

DATA

- C2C Data Set
 - Unprecedented sharing of data between MCCB and IHL
 - 15 years of unit record data on student enrollment and degrees earned
 - Unprecedented volume of data
 - 23 institutions totaling more than 825,000 records
 - Extensive vetting process
 - Facilitated by a data sharing MOU between MCCB and IHL, we have merged data from the two systems to get 15 years of unit record data on student enrollment and degrees earned in our community colleges and public universities.
 - Remove former students not fitting criteria
 - National Student Clearinghouse
 - Institutional holds (financial, disciplinary, academic)

**COMPLETE²
COMPETE** One Degree Better

www.msc2c.org



- Three things primarily contributed to the reduction from Round 1 to Round 3:
 - FERPA flags initiated by the student. Former students have the same FERPA protection as current students.
 - Currently enrolled students. Many of the students in the 21-24 age range were currently enrolled.
 - Institutional Holds. Many students were excluded due to extenuating institutional holds related to finances.
- For the initial effort, Mississippians who attended a public university or community colleges within the past 15 years have been identified:
 - More than 2,400 former students age 21 or over have enough credits to earn a bachelor's degree with no additional coursework.
 - An additional 28,000 students have enough credits to earn an associate degree with no additional coursework.
 - More than 100,000 former students can earn either an associates or bachelor's degree with some additional coursework.

FUNDING, TUITION ASSISTANCE, AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

- Institutional Support
 - \$25,000 in institutional support for C2C given to 23 institutions in July 2017.
 - Another \$25,000 in institutional support for C2C will be given in January 2018.
 - More than half of the institutions are using the money for "Learner Specific Tuition Assistance."
 - Common Uses:
 - C2C coach/support staff salary and fringes
 - Prior learning and Competency-based education assessments
 - Technology software and database development
 - Recruitment/outreach initiatives
- Complete 2 Compete Grants
 - Around \$200,000 in grant money initially
 - Approved for an additional \$3.5M with Kellogg
 - Available Spring 2018
 - Complete 2 Compete Grants can be used to pay off prior debt to a Mississippi public institution – Across institutions participating in the C2C.
 - These grants will be one-time, last dollar scholarships (unless used to pay a prior debt off) in the amount of \$500.
 - Many of the institutions have developed institutional tuition assistance scholarships for C2C.

- Worked with State Financial Aid office to incorporate the C2C grant application into the existing state financial aid application process.
- 70% of the first two target groups (Associate and Bachelor's with no additional coursework) did NOT have a financial hold.
- The majority of those who do have institutional financial holds are in the amount of \$500 or less.

COMPONENTS OF C2C

Focus on Adult Learner Services (what barriers exist and how do we remove barriers)

- Partnered with CAEL (Council for Adult Experiential Learning) to administer the Ruffalo Noel Levitz's (RNL) ALFI (Adult Learner Focused Inventory) Toolkit at 23 participating institutions.
 - Deployed surveys in March 2017
 - Institutional Self-Assessment Survey (ISAS)
 - Adult Learner (ALI) Inventory
 - ALFI Summit in June 2017
 - Institutional reports in August/September 2017 – identify institutional strengths and weaknesses related to serving adult learners
 - Prior Learning Assessment/Competency-Based Education Workshops in September 2017
 - Planning for spring 2017 – Military credit evaluation workshop and Writing PLA/CBE student learning outcomes workshop

Marketing Plan and Website Development

- Contracted with a marketing firm (LK Marketing Services based in Indianapolis) to begin development of all marketing aspects of C2C in April 2017.
 - Basic Website was live June 26, 2017.
 - Began development of adult learner application and C2C Coach and Admin dashboard in June 2017.
- C2C website and application launched August 15, 2017
 - Press Conference with Governor Phil Bryant
- Personalized marketing campaign
 - Marketing mailers with pURLs (personalized URL) for 9200 of the adult learners in the first two target groups (Associate and Bachelor's with no additional coursework) were mailed on Sept 21, 2017.
 - Marketing mailers with pURLs for the remaining 7700 of the adult learners in the first two target groups (Associate and Bachelor's with no additional coursework) were mailed on Oct 27, 2017.
 - Marketing mailers with pURLS for the third and fourth target groups will begin delivering in Jan 2018.
 - All marketing mailers with pURLs are followed with a personalized email and phone call to non-responders.

- Complete 2 Compete website is **MSC2C.org**
- Social Media presence
 - Facebook: @msc2c
 - Paid and Organic advertising
 - YouTube: Complete 2 Compete
 - Videos with MS success stories

Adult Degree Completion Program Policy (IHL Policy 521)

- Worked over several meetings with CAOs to develop a system wide “General Studies” degree program template for C2C.
 - The purpose is to provide a flexible path to a bachelor’s degree.
 - The policy is necessary to give institutions authority to waive institutional policies that apply to traditional degree programs.

Eligibility

- For adults who have completed at least 90 credit hours and have not attended a postsecondary institution in the past 24 consecutive months based on last date of attendance.
- All earned credit (e.g., grades of A, B, C, D on college-level academic credit-bearing work) prior to admission into Complete 2 Compete may be accepted to satisfy program degree requirements.
- All failing grades (e.g., grades of F) received prior to admission into Complete 2 Compete may be disregarded from GPA calculation for the degree program.

Authority to Waive Institutional Policies

- When an adult decides to come back to college through the Complete 2 Compete initiative, they will have the opportunity to select any major offered at the institution just like other students. If they do that, all requirements and policies will apply to them just as they would to any other student.
- But, if they choose the Adult Degree Completion Program, then we want the institutions to have the flexibility to waive requirements such as Academic Residency (last 30 hours must be taken at the institution awarding the degree), Catalog Year Requirements, and Additional Degree Requirements (community service learning hours, cumulative GPA, specific concentration requirements).

Minimum Degree Requirements

- 120 credit hours
- As part of the 120 hours, institutions could accept prior learning assessment, competency-based education, and technical credits from regionally-accredited Career Technical programs.
- A GPA of 2.0 would be required.

- If an institution wanted to waive all other GPA requirements, this could be the only GPA required to complete this degree.
- At a minimum, the institutions would require the 30 hour general education core curriculum that is part of IHL Policy 512, the SACS 25% credit in residence requirement, and that 30 hours must be upper division (300-, 400-level coursework).

Repeated Courses

- Once a student is admitted to the Adult Degree Completion Program, if they receive “F” grades, the institution may choose to give an unlimited number of repeats and allow only the highest grade earned to count as the official grade to satisfy the degree requirements and to calculate in the degree requirement GPA.

Results to Date

- Approximately 7000 applications
 - 251 enrolled through C2C
 - 36 Bachelor’s degrees issued
 - 222 Associate degrees issues
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