



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba



SFC STATISTICS

College Performance Indicators 2018-19 Executive Summary
Issue Date: 28 January 2020
Reference: SFC/ST/02/2020

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Summary:	Overview of college performance indicators from 2008-09 to 2018-19
FAO:	Principals and Chairs of Scotland's colleges, students, parents, guardians and the general public
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The UK Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Executive Summary

1. This report is an overview of college performance indicators from 2008-09 to 2018-19 and provides a broad coverage of college teaching activity and presents an analysis of student outcomes for those students enrolled on courses leading to recognised qualifications.
2. The sector exceeded its student number target for 2018-19 and in doing so delivered 118,242 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) SFC funded student places which is 1,973 FTE more than the 116,269 FTE target.
3. The key points from this report are:

The results for the 47,114 full-time **further education** (FE) students enrolled on recognised qualifications are as follows:

- FE full-time enrolments on recognised qualifications reduced by 4.6 percentage points (PP) (2,252) between 2017-18 and 2018-19.
- 65.2% of FE full-time students successfully completed their course which is 0.9 PP lower than 2017-18.
- A further 10.1% completed their course in 2018-19. Although these students did not achieve the qualification they were aiming for by the end of the academic year, some may gain their award at a later time.
- The remaining 24.7% of full-time FE students withdrew from their course and are accounted for by 8.7% of students withdrawing before the funding qualifying date (colleges are not funded for these students) and a further 16.0% between this point and the end of the course.
- In 2018-19, of the 26 colleges delivering full-time FE courses, nine had improved success rates in comparison to the previous year and 17 saw a decline in the proportion successfully completing their course.
- As a result of increases in student numbers and improving success rates 2,754 additional full-time FE students successfully completed their course in 2018-19 in comparison to 2008-09.
- For large colleges¹ success rates ranged from 56.0% to 71.7% in 2018-19 and for small colleges the success rates ranged from 62.7% up to 75.0%.
- SFC's national aspiration for full-time FE success is that by AY 2019-20 the percentage of enrolled (full-time) students successfully achieving a recognised qualification should increase to 73.2%. In 2018-19 only one small

¹ For the purposes of this publication the college categorisation of 'large' and 'small' is determined by the volume of credits delivered in the academic year. Colleges delivering above 25,000 credits are designated as 'large' and those below 'small'. For individual college categorisation refer to Annex A in the full report.

college exceeded the 2019-20 national aspiration of 73.2% success. The sector as a whole is currently sitting 8.0 PP below this target.

The results for the 32,860 full-time **higher education** (HE) students enrolled on recognised qualifications are as follows:

- The number of HE full-time student enrolments on recognised qualifications declined in 2018-19 by 2.8 PP (949) from the previous year.
- 69.8% of HE full-time students successfully completed their course which is a 1.5 PP reduction on the previous year.
- A further 11.7% completed their course in 2018-19, these students did not achieve the qualification they were aiming for by the end of the academic year but some may gain their award at a later time.
- The remaining 18.5% of full-time HE students are accounted for by 5.2% of students withdrawing before the funding qualifying date (colleges are not funded for these students) and a further 13.3% between this point and the end of the course.
- Of the 15 colleges delivering full-time HE courses in 2018-19 five had improved pass rates in comparison to the previous year and ten saw a decline in the proportion successfully completing their course.
- As a result of increases in student numbers and improving success rates 5,511 additional full-time HE students successfully completed their course in 2018-19, in comparison to 2008-09.
- Full-time HE success rates ranged from 64.9% to 75.0% in 2018-19.
- SFC's national aspiration for full-time HE success is that by AY 2019-20 the percentage of enrolled (full-time) students successfully achieving a recognised qualification should increase to 74.4%. In 2018-19 only one college exceeded the 2019-20 national aspiration of 74.4% success. The sector as a whole is currently sitting 4.6 PP below this target.

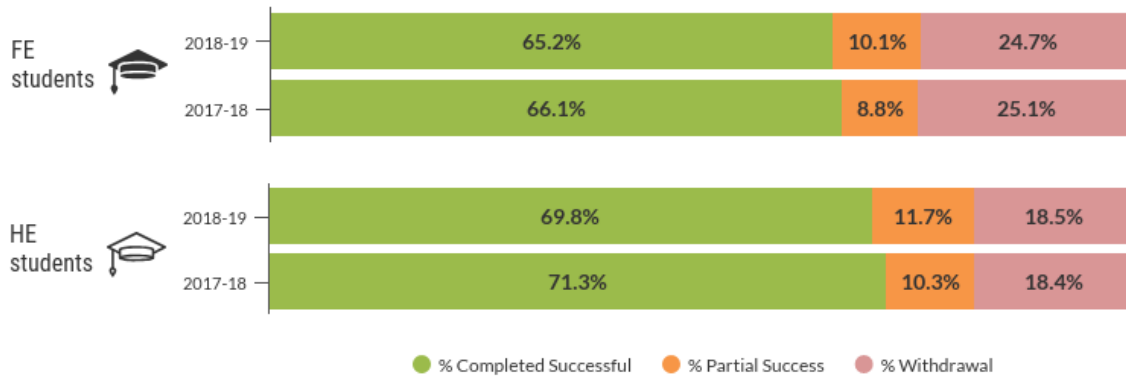
Courses over 160 hours:

- Success rates for FE full and part-time subject areas range from 52.6% for social subjects to 81.7% for nautical courses.
- For HE full and part-time courses success rates range from 64.5% for social subjects to 83.7% for nautical courses.
- The withdrawal rates for male and female students on HE programmes are very similar at around 17%. However, for FE programmes females are around 3 PP more likely to withdraw from their programme of study than male students.
- Male success rates are similar on both FE (69.4%) and HE (69.6%) programmes whereas for females the success rate is 3.7 PP lower than males on FE programmes and 3.4 PP higher than males on HE programmes.

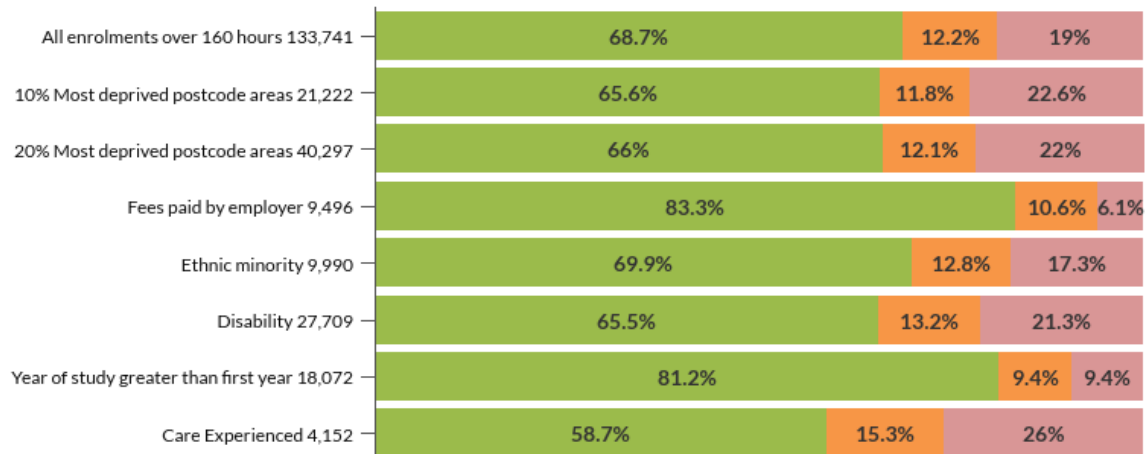
- Care-experienced students are less likely to successfully complete and more likely to withdraw when compared to the other reported key interest groups, the success rate for care-experienced students increased by 3.7 PP between 2017-18 and 2018-19.
 - All other reported key interest group success rates reduced by between 0.3 PP and 1.5 PP in 2018-19.
4. Links to individual College PIs and a more detailed explanation on and examples of how we calculate PIs can be found in separate Technical Appendices to this document.

Performance Indicators 2018-19

Outcomes on recognised qualifications (full-time)



Outcomes by key group on courses lasting 160 hours or more



Success and Gender

