



Quality Review Process
Educational Programs-Threshold and Target Calculations
 Process modified 11/13/2006

There are over 360 educational programs within the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS). Many of the programs are offered by less than 10 colleges. This creates a unique measurement situation because they have no or a limited number comparable programs within WTCS. These programs need to compare their performance to a benchmark.

The Quality Review Process for educational programs includes a basic comparison of performance to thresholds and targets on ten state level indicators. The previous methodology used to calculate the threshold and target levels sometimes resulted in threshold levels of zero or some level too low to meet the threshold definition of the lowest acceptable value for a program performance.

As of November 13, 2006, the System Office implemented a two-tier approach to calculating thresholds and targets based on the number of programs that are offered within WTCS. The new methodology for "small" programs will replace previous scorecards by recalculating the historic value for all programs. The intent of this method is to bring stability to the calculations by basing them on a larger number of similar programs and to do so over a longer period of time. Thresholds and Targets are used for benchmarking and goal setting.

More Than 10 Programs	10 Programs or Less																								
<p>The formula for calculating threshold and target values for all state level indicators will remain the same.</p> <p>A threshold will be created by averaging the values for the four lowest colleges.</p> <p>The target will be created by averaging the values for the four highest colleges.</p>	<p>A minimal threshold and target will be calculated for each instructional division. This will be done for each single state level indicator at the division level, statewide.</p> <p>The "More than 10 Programs" calculation will continue to be made. A second calculation will be made based on Division information. A comparison will be made between the two calculations. If the Division calculation is higher than the "More than 10 Programs" calculation, the Division calculation will be used to compare the program's performance. Users need to know whether the program is a part of a Division as defined by the WTC System Office.</p> <p>The Division calculation will start by creating a three-year statewide average of the indicator values. This data will be used to calculate the threshold (minimum level).</p> <p>Each division will then be divided into quintiles. The third quintile level (or 60% of the programs level) will be the minimum threshold value for programs in that division. The fourth quintile level (or 20% of the programs level) will be the minimum target value. This means that 60% of the programs in the division have a performance level above this threshold value and 20% of them have a performance level above this target value.</p> <p>Quintile Table – example of scores</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Scores</th> <th>% of scores (cumulative)</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Quintile 5</td> <td>80-100</td> <td>100%</td> <td>Target</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quintile 4</td> <td>60-79</td> <td>80%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quintile 3</td> <td>40-59</td> <td>60%</td> <td>Threshold</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quintile 2</td> <td>20-39</td> <td>40%</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quintile 1</td> <td>0-19</td> <td>20%</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Scores	% of scores (cumulative)		Quintile 5	80-100	100%	Target	Quintile 4	60-79	80%		Quintile 3	40-59	60%	Threshold	Quintile 2	20-39	40%		Quintile 1	0-19	20%	
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<p>Example: Accounting Program Course Completion</p> <p>Target: 86% Average of top 4 colleges</p> <p>Actual: 78%</p> <p>Threshold: 68% Average of bottom 4 colleges</p>	<p>Example: Golf Course Management Program Course Completion</p> <p>Target: 77% Division Calculation-at least 20% of programs in this Division are at this level or above</p> <p>Actual: 71.11%</p> <p>Threshold: 68% Division Calculation-at least 60% of programs in this Division are at this level or above</p>																								

Non Traditional Occupation Exceptions

When using the non traditional occupation (NTO) measure, the “10 programs or less” method can result in zeros for the threshold level and have NTO levels that are extremely high in some programs and divisions. Therefore, the NTO measure will use the following rules:

If the Threshold value for NTO for both the division and the program is zero, the Threshold value will be set as 50% of the target.

No target value will exceed 40% for the NTO indicator.

Program Example: Early Childhood Education (10-307-1)

	Previous Calculation	Applying a Minimum Threshold/Target Calculations
Threshold	1.00%	3.3%
Target	5.00%	21.70%

These values are higher and used on the QRP Scorecard.

Note: In the above example, the division performance level of 3.3% is higher than the program calculation (previous method) and will replace it as the scorecard threshold for this program. The same is true for the target value. The previous calculation method is not used because it is lower than the “Minimum” calculation.

Resource for Small Program Calculations

College users can find out more information about the calculation applied to their specific program by contacting the Wisconsin Technical College System Office. For more information on how to access the MS Excel spreadsheet used for the calculation, contact Jenny Morris, WTC System Office, at 608-266-2654.