

INTRODUCTION

The College and Its History

Tidewater Community College (TCC) is the second largest of the 23 community colleges in the Commonwealth of Virginia, enrolling more than 37,000 students annually. It is the 37th largest community college in the nation's 1,600-school network, and among the 50 fastest growing large community colleges. Founded in 1968 as a part of the Virginia Community College System, the college serves the South Hampton Roads region with campuses in Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach, a regional Visual Arts Center in Olde Towne, Portsmouth, the TCC Jeanne and George Roper Performing Arts Center in the downtown Norfolk theater district, and a regional Advanced Technology Center on the Virginia Beach Campus. Forty-four percent of the region's residents who attended a college or university in Virginia last fall were enrolled at TCC.

The college is committed to meeting the region's education and training needs as it advances the quality of life of the region through an educated, globally aware, and technologically engaged citizenry. It has been nationally recognized for its work in incorporating the best of technological advances into the teaching and learning process, and was recently cited by the American Council on Education as one of eight "Promising Practices" colleges and universities in the country for its work in international education. TCC students do as well as the native university students when they transfer to four-year schools, and area employers consistently register high levels of satisfaction with the performance of their employees who are TCC graduates. In 1999, the college received the inaugural award of the Virginia Community College System for its work as a pacesetter in responding proactively to the needs of business and industry in workforce development.

TCC has grown from a single location to four campuses, administrative offices, and regional visual arts, performing arts, and advanced technology centers. Classes also are offered at off-campus locations.

The Portsmouth Campus, formerly the site of Frederick College, was donated by Frederick W. Beazley and the Beazley Foundation. It opened in the fall of 1968 as the original site of TCC. Overlooking Hampton Roads harbor, the campus is located west of the city of Portsmouth, near Interstate 664. The Frederick W. Beazley Classroom Building houses academic programs, administrative offices, a learning resources center, and student services.

The Virginia Beach Campus was established in temporary quarters on Camp Pendleton, a state military reservation, in 1971. A permanent campus was constructed on land donated by the City of Virginia Beach at the geographical center of the city and opened in the fall of 1974. The campus now consists of five academic buildings, a learning resources center, and a building housing administrative and student services, all named for the boroughs of Virginia Beach. The college's regional Advanced Technology Center is also located on the Virginia Beach Campus.

The Chesapeake Campus was established in 1973 when the City of Chesapeake purchased the former Chesapeake College. The campus is located between the rapidly growing communities of Great Bridge and Deep Creek. The George B. Pass Building houses academic programs, administration, student services, and a learning resources center. The Marian P. Whitehurst Technology Center contains classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, laboratories, and a conference center.

The Visual Arts Center, TCC at Olde Towne Portsmouth, opened in the spring of 1995 as the site of the college's art programs. As a regional center for the arts, the center contains the Belle B. Goodman Gallery, as well as classroom and studio facilities.

The Norfolk Campus (formally named the Thomas W. Moss, Jr. Campus in Norfolk) opened in January 1997 as a part of the city's redevelopment effort. The Martin Building, donated by the heirs of Alvah H. Martin, contains the campus learning resources center, classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, and training and conference facilities. The Mason C. Andrews Science Building contains student services, laboratories, classrooms, and faculty offices. The Stanley C. Walker Technologies Building houses computer laboratories, classrooms, and faculty offices. The TCC Jeanne and George Roper Performing Arts Center, a regional asset, is located adjacent to the Norfolk Campus and houses classrooms, computer laboratories, and student services areas used by the campus.

The college's District Administration offices are located primarily in Norfolk. These include the offices of the President, the vice presidents for finance, administration, academic and student affairs, and workforce development, as well as the directors of institutional effectiveness and development, and grants and sponsored programs. Also located in Norfolk are the college's Information Center and the offices of Accounting, Human Resources, Payroll, Purchasing, Facilities Management, Facilities Planning & Development, and Government and External Relations (which includes Marketing, Communications, College Events, Web Services, Creative Services, and Printing Services). The Office of Information Systems, Central Records Office, the college's warehouse and receiving facility, and its central facilities maintenance shops are located at the Portsmouth Campus.

Accreditation

Tidewater Community College, a member of the Virginia Community College System, is approved by the State Board for Community Colleges and by the Virginia Community College System. Tidewater Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award the associate degree.

The College is an institutional member of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, the Association of Virginia Colleges, and the American Council on Education. It has been approved by the State Board of Education for benefits administered by the Veterans Administration and by the U.S. Office of Education for various federally funded programs.

Documents describing the College's approval and accreditation are filed in the President's Office. Persons who wish to review these documents may submit a request to do so to their campus provost. A copy of the documentation will then be made available for review on their respective campus.

Vision Statement

Tidewater Community College will become the national model for a comprehensive community college of the twenty-first century—the new millennium’s strategic community college.

Framing its comprehensive mission within a two-pronged “mission core” of *college transfer* and *workforce development*, the college will embrace as fundamental operating principles partnership, flexibility and proactive responsiveness, entrepreneurship, technological innovation, and heightened public accountability. It will be a proactive player in regional economic development and the Commonwealth’s flagship community college in college/university-parallel programming. It will have built-in systems for staying one step ahead of the future in program development and review, as well as in its own administrative operations and processes. The foundation for a context of everything that it does will be the highest academic standards benchmarked against the Commonwealth’s most selective four-year institutions in college transfer and the industry standard in occupational/technical training and development. More than the sum of its four campuses, the college will find its strength as a single educational entity serving splendidly distinct geographic constituencies. It will have an internal harmony about it that models shared decision-making, open communication, and communal civility. State-of-the-art physical facilities, a more diversified funding base, and a reengineered management structure will support this strategic vision.

Mission Statement

Tidewater Community College provides collegiate education and training to adults of all ages and backgrounds, helping them achieve their individual goals and contribute as citizens and workers to the vitality of an increasingly global community.

Commitments That Inform the Mission:

Open access to high-quality, affordable education to prepare students for transfer to a four-year baccalaureate institution, as well as for entry or advancement in the workforce.

Cultural diversity as a critically important strength for students to meet the changing needs of a pluralistic, democratic society.

Lifelong learning to heighten the awareness of students to multiple paths for achievement while helping them pursue the choices most conducive to their individual needs.

Partnerships and proactive responsiveness to develop cutting-edge programs that meet the changing needs of students and industry, while contributing to the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of the region, the Commonwealth, the nation, and the international community.

A comprehensive range of programs and services recognized for excellence by leaders of business, industry, and government, and by educators in K-12 education and four-year colleges and universities.

Programs

Tidewater Community College is a comprehensive institution of higher education, offering programs of instruction generally extending not more than two years beyond the high school level.

1. *Career and Technical Education.* The career and technical education programs are designed to meet the demand for technicians, semiprofessional workers, and skilled craftsmen for employment in industry, business, the professions, and government. These programs, which normally require two years or less of training beyond high school, include preparation for technical and occupational fields and are planned to meet the needs for workers in the region served by the College.
2. *College Transfer Education.* The college transfer programs include college freshman and sophomore courses in the arts and sciences and pre-professional education at standards acceptable for transfer to baccalaureate degree programs. These programs are of equal grade and quality to those provided in the four-year, degree-granting institutions, facilitating the transfer of students from community college to four-year colleges and universities.
3. *General Education.* The courses in general education encompass the common knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed by individuals to be effective as persons, members of families, workers, consumers, and citizens. All degree and certificate curricula include appropriate general education courses.
4. *Continuing Education.* These programs are offered to enable the adults in the region to continue their learning experiences and include both degree credit and non-degree credit study. They are offered during the day and evening hours.
5. *Special Training Program.* Special training is provided where specific job opportunities are available. This special training is coordinated with Virginia's economic expansion efforts and with the needs of the employers.
6. *Developmental Programs.* Developmental or preparatory programs are offered to prepare individuals for admission to an occupational-technical or a college transfer curriculum in the college. These programs are designed to help the student develop the basic skills and understanding necessary to succeed in community college curricula.
7. *Specialized Regional and Community Services.* The facilities and personnel of the college are available to provide specialized services to help meet the cultural and educational needs of the region served by the college. This service includes the non-classroom activities and conferences, seminars, and special community projects which are designed to provide cultural and educational opportunities for the citizens of the region.