

## MEASURING QUALITY EDUCATION

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#### Introduction

There are many methods of measuring quality in education. Some measurements may assess internal factors while others are measures of external factors. Taken together they can paint a picture of a program, department, institution, or educational system.

The following report provides, where possible, a set of data that compares Columbia College professional programs with similar programs in public institutions in Alberta.

#### Source of Data

Figures for Columbia College were drawn from their Annual Key Performance Indicators Report as well as the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey Results. Figures for public institutions were drawn from the Advanced Education and Technology Business Plan Highlights.

	<b>Columbia College</b>	<b>Public Institutions</b>
<b>Internal Measures</b>		
Student Satisfaction with their Instructor	91%	No date provided
Student Overall Satisfaction with their Education	82% <sup>1</sup>	91% <sup>1</sup>
Student Graduation Rate	84%	63% est.
Faculty Satisfaction with Work	83%	No date provided
Staff Satisfaction with Work	84%	No date provided
<b>External Measures</b>		
Students Employed in Field of Training	95%	No date provided
<b>External, National Exams (Pass Rate)</b>		
Dental Assisting	97%	No date provided
Licensed Practical Nurse	100%	No date provided

Note 1: It should be noted that two different methods are followed to gather this information and therefore the results are not directly comparable. The Department of Advanced Education is now working toward developing procedures to obtain comparable results for public and private institutions.

Note 2: All Columbia College figures are for 2008/09. Public Institutions figures are for 2010/13.

#### Outstanding Results

It is important to point out that two programs at Columbia College are nationally accredited programs. Students in these programs must write national exams. In both cases Columbia College students generally performed as well as, or better than, students from public and private colleges across Canada. In fact, in the Dental Assisting Program, over the past five years, students have consistently achieved final exam scores at least 20% higher than the national average. In the college's new Licensed Practical Nurse Program, 100% of its first two graduating classes passed the national exams. We are not aware of any other college in Canada that achieved this outcome during this period.