



1. What constitutes the Florida Community College System?

The Florida Community College System is comprised of 28 locally-controlled, public community colleges. The community colleges and their respective districts include:

- Brevard Community College (Brevard County)
- Broward Community College (Broward County)
- Central Florida Community College (Marion, Citrus, and Levy Counties)
- Chipola Junior College (Jackson, Calhoun, Holmes, Liberty, and Washington Counties)
- Daytona Beach Community College (Volusia, Flagler Counties)
- Edison Community College (Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, and Hendry Counties)
- Florida Community College of Jacksonville (Duval, Nassau Counties)
- Florida Keys Community College (Monroe County)
- Gulf Coast Community College (Bay, Franklin, and Gulf Counties)
- Hillsborough Community College (Hillsborough County)
- Indian River Community College (St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin, and Okeechobee Counties)
- Lake City Community College (Columbia, Baker, Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union Counties)
- Lake-Sumter Community College (Lake, Sumter Counties)
- Manatee Community College (Manatee, Sarasota Counties)
- Miami-Dade Community College (Dade County)
- North Florida Community College (Madison, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lafayette, Suwannee, and Taylor Counties)
- Okaloosa-Walton Community College (Okaloosa, Walton Counties)
- Palm Beach Community College (Palm Beach County)
- Pasco-Hernando Community College (Hernando, Pasco Counties)
- Pensacola Junior College (Escambia, Santa Rosa Counties)
- Polk Community College (Polk County)
- St. Johns River Community College (Putnam, Clay, and St. Johns Counties)
- St. Petersburg College (Pinellas County) *
- Santa Fe Community College (Alachua, Bradford Counties)
- Seminole Community College (Seminole County)

Florida Community College System

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Florida Community College (Highlands, DeSoto, and Hardee Counties) • Tallahassee Community College (Leon, Gadsen, and Wakulla Counties) • Valencia Community College (Orange, Osceola Counties) <p>Note: The 2001 Legislature redesignated St. Petersburg Junior College as St. Petersburg College.</p>
<p>2. How are community colleges governed?</p>	<p>The public community colleges are locally based and governed entities with statutory and funding ties to state government. The colleges strive to maintain sufficient local authority and flexibility while preserving appropriate legal accountability to the state. Each community college is a political subdivision of the state and is governed by a district board of trustees. Each district board of trustees is vested with the responsibility to operate its respective community college and with the authority necessary for the proper operation and improvement thereof in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education and the Florida Board of Education.</p> <p>The district boards of trustees vary in size from five to nine members. The trustees are appointed by the Governor and must be approved by four members of the State Board of Education and confirmed by the Senate in regular session. The district board is comprised of five members when a community college district is confined to one school district; seven members when a community college district is confined to one school district and the board of trustees so elects; and not more than nine members when the community college district contains two or more school districts.</p>
<p>3. Who do the community colleges serve?</p>	<p>As open-access institutions, community colleges serve all who can benefit, without regard to age, race, gender, creed, or ethnic or economic background.</p>
<p>4. What is the mission of public community colleges?</p>	<p>The primary mission and responsibility of public community colleges is responding to community needs for postsecondary academic education and degree career education. This mission and responsibility includes being responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing lower level undergraduate instruction and awarding associate degrees; • preparing students directly for vocations requiring less than baccalaureate degrees; • providing student development services; and • promoting economic development.

Florida Community College System

	<p>A separate and secondary role for the community colleges includes the offering of programs in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community services which are not directly related to academic or occupational advancement; • adult general education; and • recreational and leisure services. <p>Note: The 2001 Legislature authorized St. Petersburg College to offer selected baccalaureate degrees and established a process whereby community colleges may be authorized to offer a limited number of baccalaureate degrees designed to meet local workforce needs.</p>
<p>5. What programs are community colleges authorized to offer?</p>	<p>The community colleges are authorized to offer such programs and courses as are necessary to fulfill their mission.</p>
<p>6. What degrees are community colleges authorized to offer?</p>	<p>The community colleges are authorized to grant associate in arts degrees, associate in science degrees, associate in applied science degrees, certificates, awards, and diplomas. In addition, the 2001 Legislature authorized St. Petersburg College to offer selected baccalaureate degrees.</p>
<p>7. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Part III, Ch. 240, F.S. -- Community College System Ch. 239, F.S. -- Vocational, Adult, and Community Education</p>
<p>8. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Department of Education Division of Community Colleges (850) 488-1721 www.dcc.firn.edu</p> <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on Colleges & Universities (850) 488-3711</p>