Data and Evidence Analysis Summary – 2016
Respiratory Therapist

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WTCS Comparative Data:


Course Completion

- Western’s C or Better for Respiratory Therapy program ranged from 70.9% (2013) to 82.4% (2012). When compared to the other three colleges selected as a comparison group, Western ranks 4th out of four. Chippewa Valley Technical College consistently outranked Western and has the highest completion rate of the four colleges. Moraine Park ranks second with an average completion rate of 90.5% from 2011-2015.
- Moraine Park’s number of students is similar to Western’s for completion. They may be a college to converse with regarding course completion of a C or better. Although Chippewa Valley has a higher percentage of completion, the number of students served is approximately half of the number of students in Western’s program.
- Western’s number of students dropped from 91 (2012) to 67 (2015). Chippewa Valley and Northeast Wisconsin Technical Colleges had fluctuation of 10 students between the years of 2011-2015. Moraine Park experience a drop of 38 student from 2011 to 2012 but has noted an increase of student since 2013 to 83 (2014) and 70 (2015).

Second Year Retention

- Western’s second year retention rate ranged from 40.5% (2014) to 77.5% in 2010. A steady decrease was noted from 2010 to 2014. An increase from 40.5% (2014) to 50% in 2015.
- When compared to the other three colleges, Western has the lowest second year retention average over the six years of measurement (2011-2015). Western’s average is 58.2% which is lower than Northeast Wisconsin Technical College’s average of 70.4% who leads the four colleges.
- Western saw a student decline of 66 (2011) to 32 in 2015. Chippewa Valley and Northeast Wisconsin Technical Colleges largest change in student numbers were 12 and 13 respectfully. Moraine Park did not report in 2013 and may have suspended admission for there was a decline in 2012 & 2014 but numbers increased to 50 in 2015.

Western’s Third Year Graduation

- Western’s third year graduation decreased to 19.0% (2015) compared to 35% in 2015. A steady decline is noted since 2011.
- In comparison to the other two colleges, Western’s third-year graduation rate (average) of 24.6% is three out of three. Northeast rate is notable at 67.3%.
Moraine Park was not included due to no reporting in 2014. Moraine Park did have an increase of 4.5% (2013) to 36.4% (2015).

**Labor Market Analysis October 2015**


In an analysis of the Western District and occupations associated with the field of Respiratory Therapy, the following points are noted:

- Occupations related to the Respiratory Therapist Program are expected to grow by 9.9% which is greater than the national growth rate of 6.2%. District trends are anticipated to be stronger than the state trend of 6.8%.
- Job distribution in the district by the year 2020 indicates a high concentration in La Crosse County (160 jobs). Surrounding counties are significantly lower with Monroe County anticipating 13 jobs and Vernon County 10 jobs. The other counties are under 10 positions.
- This program’s employment pattern has a solid even age distribution. The 45-54 age group leads the employment field with 28.6%. The 25-34 and 35-44 age groups indicate 22.3% and 23.1% respectfully of the 2015 jobs. The 55-64 and above represents 22.8% of the employees. The smallest segment of workers is the 19-24 year old population with 3.0%. The high school population of students may benefit from greater exposure to the occupation and benefits of working in this health related field.
- The majority of jobs in 2015 were housed within general medical and surgical hospitals (90.6%) Positions within other areas are 2.5% and lower.
- An analysis of the district’s Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) shows that there is one educational program tagged to deliver graduates into the Respiratory Therapy field. In 2014, there were 14 completers for seven openings. At a cursory glance, it appears that the field is oversaturated with graduates. The graduate success report for 2013-14 indicates of the 14 graduates, nine responded and eight have positions. One graduate is continuing his/her education. It would be beneficial for the program to do a deeper analysis of the employment rates in the district.
- Earnings for graduates of this program range from $22.85 per hour to $29.74 per hour with the median hourly wage of $26.02. This is below the national median wage of $26.92. The reported wage may actually be higher if the respiratory therapy technician wage was not calculated in with the respiratory therapist hourly wage.
Student Satisfaction Trends

The Noel Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory was conducted in the fall of 2015. The instrument asks students to rate the importance AND the satisfaction with 95 items (1-7 with 7 as highest) related to the following “scales”:

- Instructional effectiveness
- Academic advising/counseling
- Concern for the individual
- Registration effectiveness
- Admissions and financial aid
- Student centeredness
- Campus climate
- Academic services
- Service excellence
- Safety and security
- Campus support services and responsiveness to diverse populations

In the program self-study process (data and evidence analysis work), programs are asked to identify gaps between importance and satisfaction. Gaps are calculated as the difference between the importance of an item and the satisfaction level. Gaps that are close to a “1” should be discussed and explored – particularly if they are tied to items that are rated as high in importance for students.

This survey had six students respond. A cursory glance at the “scale” level reveals a gap in academic services (1.05). The overall satisfaction with the experience at Western for the Respiratory Therapist program was 6.33 as compared to 5.68 for all students responding to the survey. The Respiratory Therapist students indicated that the experience thus far was better than expected (5.00), whereas all students responding to this survey scored this at an average of 4.93.

A more detailed analysis was conducted at the “item” level. Items are associated with one or more “scales” and provide additional insight into specific areas.

Items rated **highest in importance** for Respiratory Therapist students include several items that scored a 7 (scale of 1-7 with 7 as very important):

- Item #18 – Quality of instruction I receive in most of my classes is excellent. 6.83
- Item #32 – Academic advisor is knowledgeable about my program. 6.80
- Item #34 – Computer labs are adequate and accessible. 6.80
- Item #36 – Students are made to feel welcome. 6.80
- Item #43 – Class change polices are reasonable. 6.80
- Item #46 – Faculty provide timely feedback about student progress in a course. 6.80
- Item #58 – nearly all of the faculty are knowledgeable in their fields. 6.83
- Item #68 – The campus is well maintained. 6.83

Note that the students in this program seemed to associate a higher level of importance to many items as compared to students in other programs. There were 20 items where there was a 0 or higher (indicated with a – sign) between importance and satisfaction. This indicates the students are satisfied
with the education and services at Western but there are gaps noted. Items that indicated gaps of 1.00 and above may be topics of discussion for this program include:

- Item #5 – Personnel involved in registration are helpful. (1.66)
- Item #13 – Financial aid awards are announced in time to be helpful in planning. (1.67)
- Item #14 – Library resources and services are adequate. (1.93)
- Item #17 – Personnel in the Veteran’s Services program are helpful. (2.75)
- Item #18 – Quality of instruction I receive in most of my classes is excellent. (1.00)
- Item #23 – Faculty are understanding of students’ unique life circumstances (1.17)
- Item #34 – Computer labs are adequate and accessible. (2.80)
- Item #35 – Policies and procedures regarding registration/course selection are clear. (1.60)
- Item #39 – Student parking space on campus is adequate. (1.90)
- Item #40 – My academic advisor is knowledgeable about the transfer requirements. (1.00)
- Item #41 – Admissions staff are knowledgeable. (1.60)
- Item #42 – Equipment in the lab facilities is kept up to date. (1.40)
- Item #58 – Nearly all of the faculty are knowledgeable in their fields. (1.00)
- Item #60 – Billing policies are reasonable. (1.10)
- Item #65 – Students are notified early in the term if they are doing poorly. (1.87)
- Item #72 – Wellness Center meets my fitness needs. (2.20)

**Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Trends**

There were 13 responses to this survey.

- Students commented on how they loved the small class sizes, the instructors, the content and the ability to learn a concept and immediately apply it in a lab and then in a hospital setting.
- Some conflicting comments about doing away with outlying hospital experiences while some wanted to increase clinical sites. One student would like to go to Mayo in Rochester to broaden experiences to places other than local hospitals in the event they don’t stay in La Crosse.
- Some students would like to see the order change of some of the classes that were given and/or adding additional classes.
- All four conclusion responses reflected a positive experience at Western.

**Graduate Follow-Up Trends**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>2012-13</th>
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| Types of jobs obtained | Clinical-Account-Liaison/RT  
Respiratory Care Practitioner  
Respiratory Therapist |
| Companies hiring Western graduates | Apria Health Care, Rochester, MN  
Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI  
Black River Memorial Hospital, Black River Falls, WI  
Gundersen Health System, La Crosse, WI |
### Year 2013-14

| Types of jobs obtained          | Clinician
|                                | Respiratory Therapist
| Companies hiring Western         | Sleep Center, Minneapolis, MN
| graduates                       | Crossing Rivers Health, Prairie du Chien, WI
|                                | Lee’s Summit Medical Center, Kansas City, MO
|                                | Mayo Clinic Health System, La Crosse, WI
|                                | Reedsburg Area Medical Center, Reedsburg, WI
|                                | Select Specialty Hospital, Madison, WI

### Year 2014-15

| Types of jobs obtained          | Registered Respiratory Therapist
|                                | Respiratory Therapist
| Companies hiring Western         | Reedsburg Area Medical Center, Reedsburg, WI
| graduates                       | Mayo Clinic Health System, La Crosse, WI
|                                | Ministry St. Clare’s Hospital, Schofield, WI
|                                | Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus, OH
|                                | Winona Health, Winona, MN

## Career Pathways Assessment

- Your program had three responses to the survey. Two were full-time faculty.
- You also had one dean or associate dean complete.
- Items that may be topics of discussion for this program include:
  - There appears to be disagreement in course sequencing so there might be an opportunity to discuss embedding and laddering, multiple entry points for a variety of student needs, or possible flexible course offerings.
  - There appears to be an opportunity to discuss student options such as Credit for Prior Learning, articulation agreements with high school students or credit transfer options.
  - There appears to be an opportunity to discuss faculty responsibilities in credit agreements, collaboration with high school teachers to maintain college level standards, and extending Credit for Prior Learning to incoming students.
  - Lastly, there might be an opportunity to discuss program planning and improvement using appropriate data sources including student satisfaction and labor market data.