



Community College Fact Sheet

APA Committee of Psychology Teachers at Community Colleges (PT@CC)

What is PT@CC?

The APA Committee of Psychology Teachers at Community Colleges (PT@CC) was established in 2001 to provide a voice for community college psychology teachers in APA. Through support from the APA Education Directorate and leadership from the PT@CC Committee, a network of community college teacher affiliates—called PT@CC—has developed into a national membership organization for psychology teachers at community colleges. PT@CC has given educators a voice on the national level to advance issues of particular importance to the teaching and learning of psychology at community colleges. With more than 1,600 members nationally, PT@CC works to promote high-quality teaching in psychology.

PT@CC goals

- Foster professionalism in the teaching of psychology as a science
- Provide resources that will help psychology teachers with teaching and research
- Create partnerships with other APA committees and boards
- Recognize excellent teachers and students for their work in psychology

Community colleges at a glance

- Community colleges—where 8 million college students are taking courses for academic credit—represent one of the largest segments of America's higher education system. According to the **American Association of Community Colleges** (AACC, 2013), this is 45% of all U.S. undergraduate students.
- Community colleges are open admissions institutions that provide affordable and accessible educational opportunities for all new entering students (AACC, 2013).

- Community colleges also create partnerships with local businesses and industries to respond to the needs of these employers (AACC, 2013).
- About 1,200 community colleges are located in cities and rural areas throughout the nation (AACC, 2013).

Community college students

- According to the report of the White House Summit on Community Colleges (2011), community colleges enroll a “disproportionate percentage of minority, non-traditional, older adult, low-income, working, parent, and first generation students.” Many of these students require additional support to complete their education.
- 60% of community college students transfer to 4-year colleges and universities, and nearly 71% of the students who transfer earn a 4-year degree (National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 2012).
- Veterans are more likely to enroll in community colleges for a college education (National Center for Education Statistics [NCES], 2011).
- Recent immigrants are more likely to enroll in English as a second language (ESL) classes at community colleges (Community College Consortium for Immigrant Education, 2013).

Psychology at the community college

- More sections of introductory psychology are taught in community colleges than at baccalaureate-degree-granting institutions (Clay, 2008).
- NCES (2012) reported that during a 10-year period (from 1999–2000 to 2009–2010), “the field of **psychology experienced the largest percent increase** in the number of associate's degrees awarded over this time period (352%, from 1,500 to 6,600 degrees).”
- In 2008–2009, 43% of the degrees awarded were associate's degrees in the liberal arts, which included psychology and the social sciences (Supiano, 2011).
- The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center (2012) reported that in 2010–2011, 45% of all students who earned bachelor's degrees had previously been enrolled at a community college.

- 10% of PhD students in the social sciences and 10% of PsyD students began their education at a community college (Ellis, 2010).
- There are 34,854 lifetime members of **Psi Beta**, the national honor society in psychology for community and junior colleges (J. Rudmann, personal communication, February 13, 2013).
- By 2020, enrollment is projected to increase 10–20%: 12% for men, 21% for women, 30% for Blacks, and 45% for Hispanics (AACC, 2012).
- By 2020, California is projected to have 1 million more community college students. President Obama wants 5 million more community college graduates by 2020 (White House Summit on Community Colleges, 2011).

PT@CC 2009 Survey of Psychology Professors (Belar, 2009)

- 41% earned doctoral degrees
- 53% earned master's degrees
- 50% of full-time professors teach 13 credit hours or more
- 50% are APA community college teacher affiliates
- 23% are members of the Society for the Teaching of Psychology
- 67% have 20–40 students per class

What does the future hold for community colleges?

- About 55% of all new jobs will require a college degree (**White House Summit on Community Colleges**, 2011).
- By 2020, 8 out of 10 new jobs will require a college degree (White House Summit on Community Colleges, 2011).

What can PT@CC members do to support these national trends and goals?

PT@CC can play an important role in preparing students for college success and degree completion:

- Members can do this work on multiple fronts: in the classroom, in the community, and with the APA.
- PT@CC can educate the public about the applications of psychological science to schools and education.
- Members can use resources created by PT@CC to assist in this major effort. To learn more about these resources, visit the **PT@CC website**.

How can I join PT@CC?

To join, please go to the **PT@CC website**. APA members can participate in PT@CC at no additional cost by contacting **Martha Boenau**.

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