



U N I V E R S I T Y O F
SOUTH CAROLINA[®]
A I K E N

SC Public Senior Institutions Degree Completions
Comparison to SC Research and Technical
Institutions
2003-2006

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University Mission

Founded in 1961, the University of South Carolina Aiken (USCA) is a comprehensive liberal arts institution committed to active learning through excellence in teaching, faculty and student scholarship, research, creative activities and service. In this stimulating academic community, USCA challenges students to acquire and develop the skills, knowledge, and values necessary for success in a dynamic global environment.

The university offers degrees in the arts and sciences and in the professional disciplines of business, education, and nursing. All courses of study are grounded in a liberal arts and sciences core curriculum. USCA also encourages interdisciplinary studies and collaborative endeavors.

Emphasizing small classes and individual attention, USCA provides students with opportunities to maximize individual achievement in both academic and co-curricular settings. The institution challenges students to think critically and creatively, to communicate effectively, to learn independently, and to acquire depth of knowledge in chosen fields. The university values honesty, integrity, initiative, hard work, accomplishments, responsible citizenship, respect for diversity, and cross-cultural understanding.

USC Aiken attracts students of varying ages and diverse cultural backgrounds who have demonstrated the potential to succeed in a challenging academic environment. In addition to serving the Savannah River area, USCA actively seeks student enrollment from all parts of South Carolina as well as from other states and countries.

As a senior public institution of the University of South Carolina, USCA combines the advantages of a smaller institution with the resources of a major university system. Located in beautiful, historic Aiken, South Carolina, USCA is an institution of moderate size (2,500-5,000 students) that offers baccalaureate degrees in a number of disciplines, completion baccalaureate degrees at University of South Carolina regional campuses, and master's degrees in selected programs.

The USCA World Wide Web Home Page is: <http://www.usca.edu>

The USCA Office of Institutional Effectiveness World Wide Web Home Page is: <http://ie.usca.edu>

October 2007

Suggested Citation

Miles, D. (2007). *SC Public Senior Institutions Degree Completions Comparison to SC Research and Technical Institutions*. Aiken, SC: Office of Institutional Effectiveness, University of South Carolina Aiken. Retrieved [date], from

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Executive Summary

This report was prepared by the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at the request of Dr. Thomas L. Hallman, Chancellor of the University of South Carolina Aiken, to analyze the degree completion data of South Carolina Public Senior Institutions, South Carolina Research Universities, and Technical Colleges. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary overview of associate and bachelor degree recipients between 2003 and 2006. The information presented here is primarily descriptive in nature.

Major Findings

South Carolina Public Senior Institutions confer more degrees between the academic years of 2003-2006 than South Carolina research and technical institutions. When compared with South Carolina research and technical institutions the total number of degrees completed among first-time degree seeking students is consistently higher among those students that attend South Carolina public senior institutions.

Data Sourcing and Collection

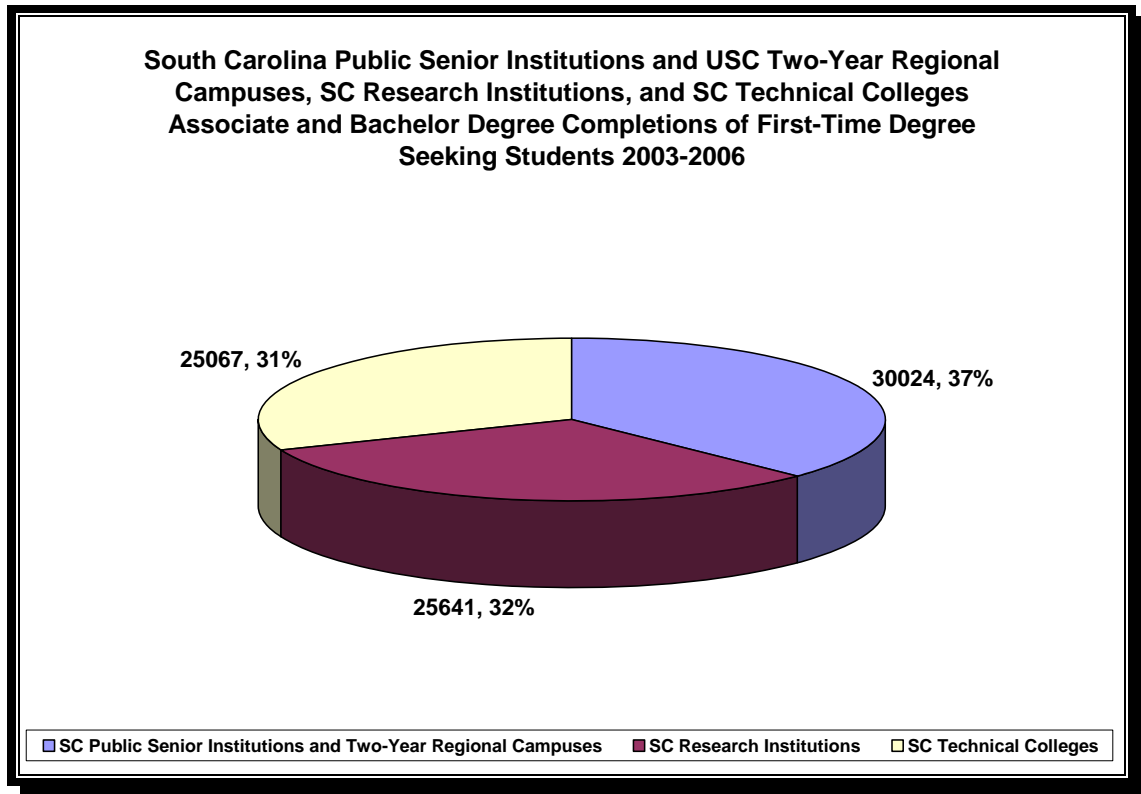
This report uses data gathered from publicly available resources, so that many of these indicators can be monitored and tracked in the future by those interested in tracking the degree completions rates of Universities and Colleges mentioned in this study.

South Carolina Public Senior Institutions and the USC two-year regional campuses had a total of 30,024 degree completions between the academic years of 2003-2006. The table below shows the distribution of these degree completions among the various institutions. The College of Charleston had the most degree completions during the 2003-2006 academic years with 8,239 degrees conferred. The University of South Carolina Union has the least amount of degrees conferred during the 2003-2006 academic years with 217.

South Carolina Public Senior Institutions and Two-Year Regional Campuses Associate and Bachelor Degree Completions of First-Time Degree Seeking Students 2003-2006						
UnitID	Institution Name	2003 Total Degrees Awarded	2004 Total Degrees Awarded	2005 Total Degrees Awarded	2006 Total Degrees Awarded	Total Degrees Awarded 2003-2006
218645	University of South Carolina-Aiken	518	544	566	483	2111
217819	College of Charleston	2107	2059	2007	2066	8239
217864	Citadel Military College of South Carolina	416	462	471	433	1782
218061	Francis Marion University	434	421	493	482	1830
218229	Lander University	394	431	463	423	1711
218654	University of South Carolina-Beaufort	79	73	152	127	431
218724	Coastal Carolina University	801	768	887	931	3387
218733	South Carolina State University	631	563	499	515	2208
218742	University of South Carolina-Upstate	777	783	880	900	3340
218964	Winthrop University	845	881	872	997	3595
218672	University of South Carolina-Lancaster	121	115	121	152	509
218681	University of South Carolina-Salkehatchie	80	86	94	78	338
218690	University of South Carolina-Sumter	119	70	74	63	326
218706	University of South Carolina-Union	45	59	56	57	217
Totals		7367	7315	7635	7707	30024

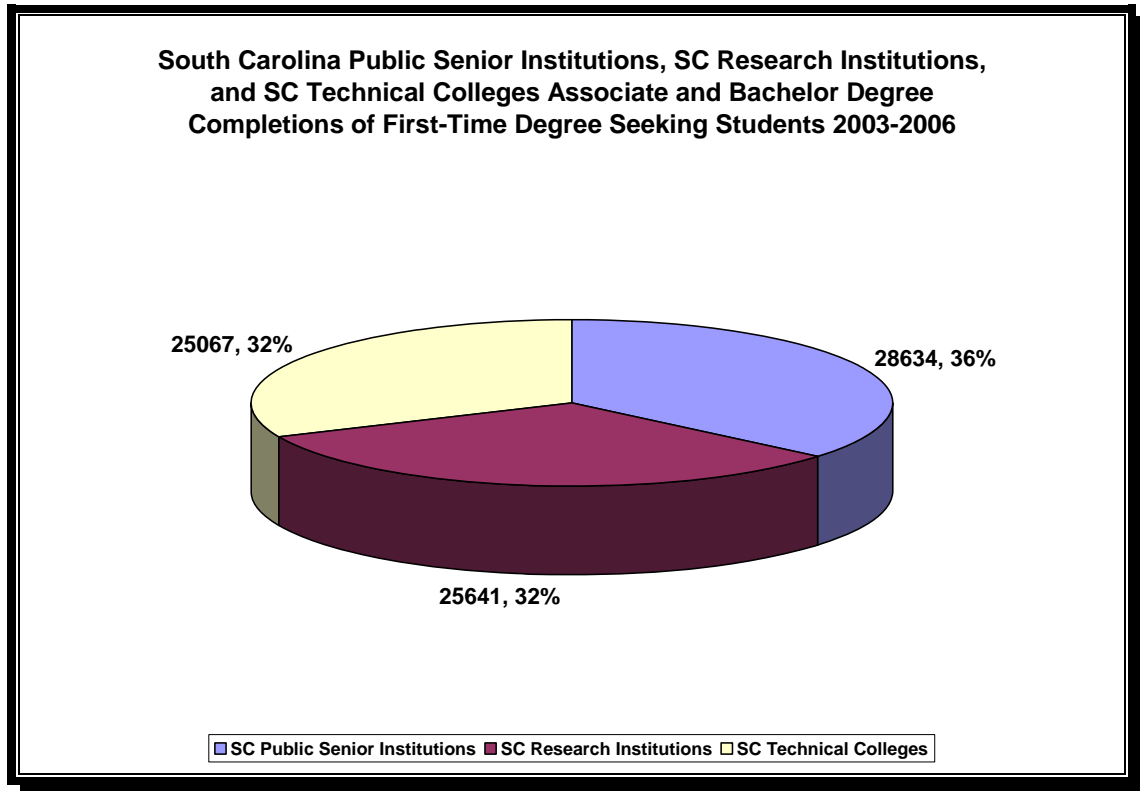
*Produced by the USC Aiken Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Source: IPEDS Peer Analysis System*

The pie charts below shows that between the academic years of 2003-2006, thirty-seven percent of the total degrees conferred were from the South Carolina Public Senior Institutions and the USC Two-Year Regional Campuses. The South Carolina research institutions account for thirty-two percent of the total degrees conferred and the South Carolina Technical Colleges account for thirty-one percent of the degrees completed within the 2003-2006 academic years.



Produced by the USC Aiken Office of Institutional Effectiveness

When the USC Two-Year Regional Campuses are removed from the comparison, South Carolina Public Senior Institutions continue to have highest percentage of the total degrees conferred between the academic years of 2003-2006 with thirty-six percent.



Produced by the USC Aiken Office of Institutional Effectiveness

South Carolina Public Senior Institutions Associate and Bachelor Degree Completions of First-Time Degree Seeking Students 2003-2006

UnitID	Institution Name	2003 Total Degrees Awarded	2004 Total Degrees Awarded	2005 Total Degrees Awarded	2006 Total Degrees Awarded	Total Degrees Awarded 2003-2006
218645	University of South Carolina-Aiken	518	544	566	483	2111
217819	College of Charleston	2107	2059	2007	2066	8239
217864	Citadel Military College of South Carolina	416	462	471	433	1782
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218724	Coastal Carolina University	801	768	887	931	3387
218733	South Carolina State University	631	563	499	515	2208
218742	University of South Carolina-Upstate	777	783	880	900	3340
218964	Winthrop University	845	881	872	997	3595
Totals		7002	6985	7290	7357	28634

*Produced by the USC Aiken Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Source: IPEDS Peer Analysis System*

South Carolina research institutions have seen a gradual increase in the number of degree completions from 2004 through the 2006 academic year. The University of South Carolina- Columbia has conferred the most degrees with 12,914 and the Medical University of South Carolina trails both Clemson and the University of South Carolina-Columbia with 741 degrees completed between the 2003-2006 academic years.

South Carolina Research Institutions Associate and Bachelor Degree Completions of First-Time Degree Seeking Students 2003-2006						
UnitID	Institution Name	2003 Total Degrees Awarded	2004 Total Degrees Awarded	2005 Total Degrees Awarded	2006 Total Degrees Awarded	Total Degrees Awarded 2003-2006
217882	Clemson University	3004	3020	3005	2957	11986
218335	Medical University of South Carolina	170	166	205	200	741
218663	University of South Carolina-Columbia	3068	3003	3264	3579	12914
Totals		6242	6189	6474	6736	25641

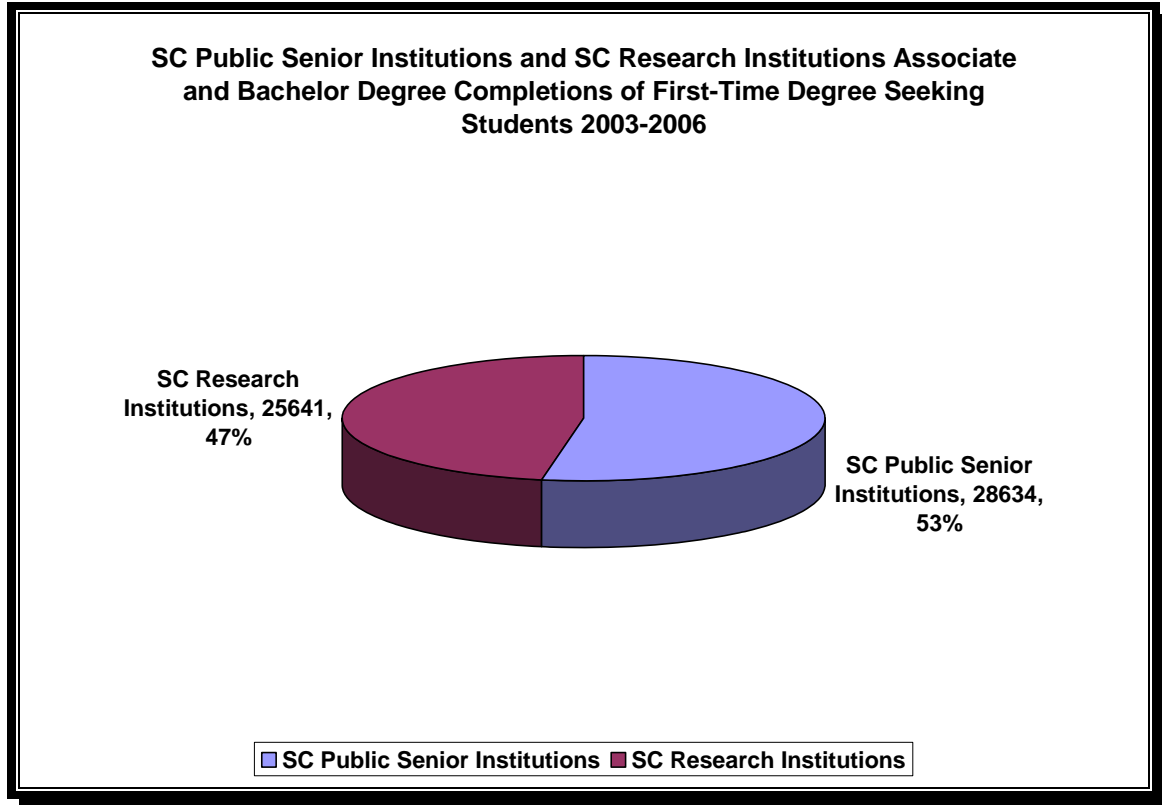
*Produced by the USC Aiken Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Source: IPEDS Peer Analysis System*

South Carolina Technical Institutions have had a gradual increase in the number of degree completions every year since the 2003 academic year. Trident Technical College has had the most degree completions with 3,854 and Williamsburg Technical College has had the least degrees conferred with 169.

South Carolina Technical Colleges Associate Degree Completions of First-Time Degree Seeking Students 2003-2006						
UnitID	Institution Name	2003 Total Degrees Awarded	2004 Total Degrees Awarded	2005 Total Degrees Awarded	2006 Total Degrees Awarded	Total Degrees Awarded 2003-2006
217615	Aiken Technical College	176	167	206	220	769
217837	Northeastern Technical College	76	106	106	118	406
217989	Denmark Technical College	162	186	142	141	631
218025	Florence-Darlington Technical College	404	422	405	403	1634
218113	Greenville Technical College	801	881	939	886	3507
218140	Horry-Georgetown Technical College	440	435	507	562	1944
218353	Midlands Technical College	827	828	844	872	3371
218487	Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College	217	218	239	260	934
218520	Piedmont Technical College	473	551	491	459	1974
218830	Spartanburg Community College	347	377	370	400	1494
217712	Technical College of the Lowcountry	112	128	149	140	529
218858	Central Carolina Technical College	204	236	239	196	875
218885	Tri-County Technical College	430	486	470	460	1846
218894	Trident Technical College	982	956	920	996	3854
218955	Williamsburg Technical College	32	38	42	57	169
218991	York Technical College	261	282	262	325	1130
Totals		5944	6297	6331	6495	25067

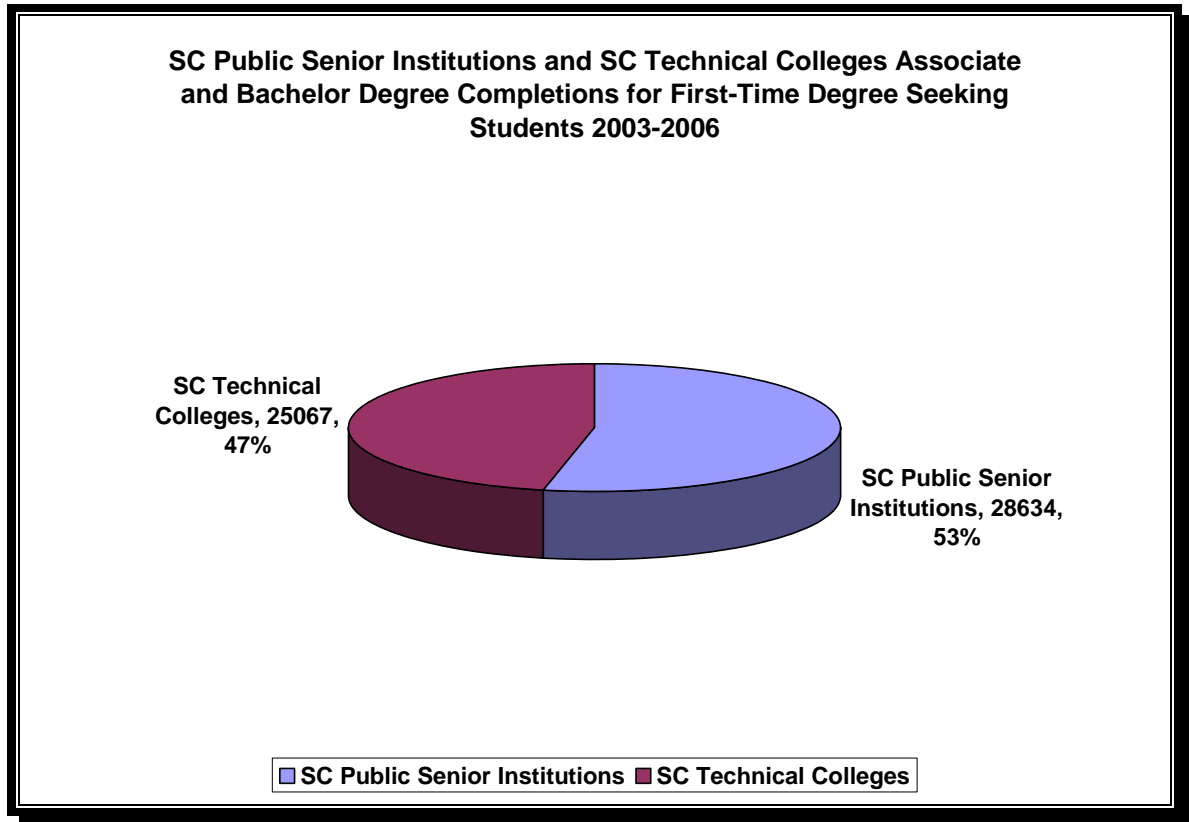
*Produced by the USC Aiken Office of Institutional Effectiveness Source:
IPEDS Peer Analysis System*

Fifty-three percent of the students that completed their degrees within the 2003-2006 academic years completed their degrees at one of the South Carolina public senior institutions. Forty-seven percent of students that completed their degrees between the 2003 and 2006 academic years attended one of the South Carolina research institutions.



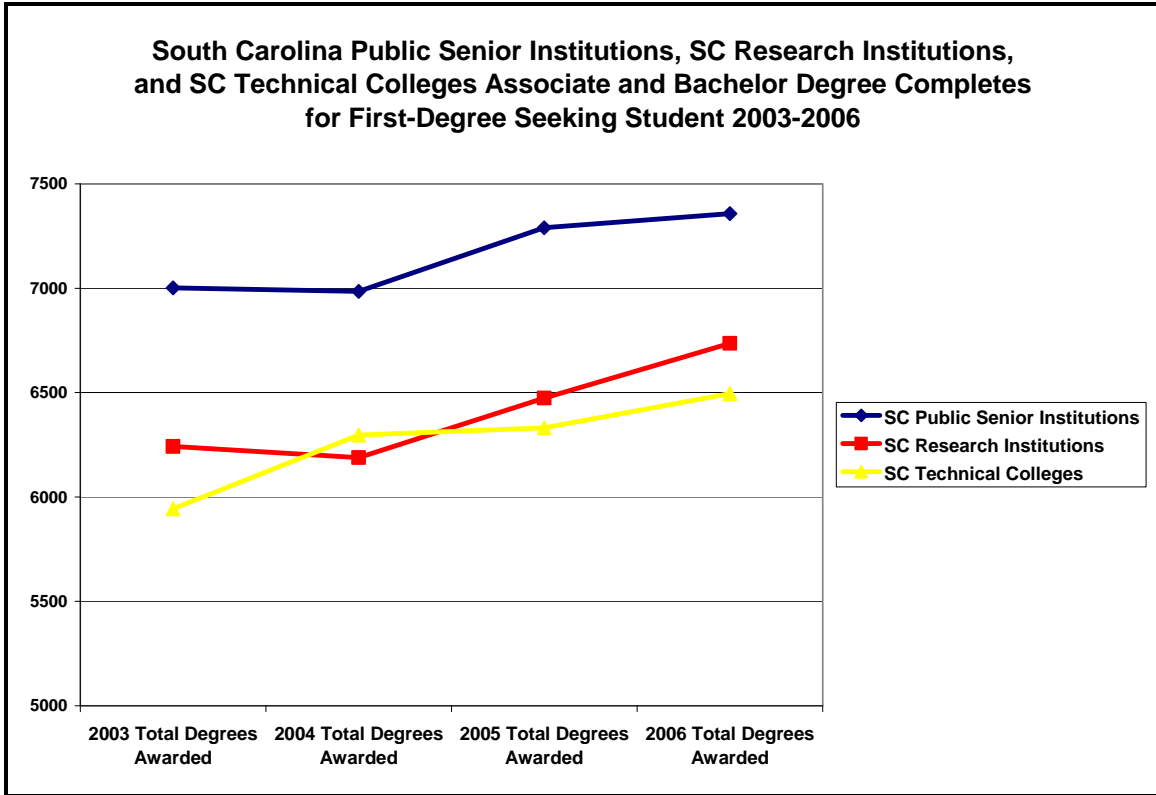
Produced by the USC Aiken Office of Institutional Effectiveness

When degree completions of the South Carolina Public Senior Institutions are compared with South Carolina Technical Colleges the same percentage holds true as with the previous comparison. Fifty-three percent of degrees conferred were from South Carolina Public Senior Institutions, with forty-seven percent conferred at South Carolina Technical Colleges.



Produced by the USC Aiken Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Since the 2003 academic year South Carolina Public Senior Institutions, research institutions, and technical colleges have continued to see increased in the number of degrees conferred. However, there is a considerable gap that has South Carolina Senior institutions conferring more degrees than technical and research institutions.



Conclusions

Analysis of the data appears to suggest that South Carolina Public Senior institutions are contributing significantly to the higher education of students that are graduating from institutions within the state of South Carolina. One of the most obvious factors is the collective gap that exists between public senior institutions and the research/technical institutions with regard to degree conferment. The university as well as other agencies may want to continue to monitor this trend in higher education in South Carolina to see if public senior institutions will continue to confer degrees at higher rates than their counterparts.