

About

The Research Institute (RI) at Dallas College conducts actionable higher education research that seeks to elevate community college student success and post-completion outcomes. We develop regional and national insights while directly supporting strategic decision-making within our college and local community.

Research Agenda

The research agenda outlined below represents the RI's research priorities for the 2025-2026 academic year. RI's research priorities are organized in four priority research areas: post-college outcomes, unique student populations, barriers and solutions to attainment, and institutional effectiveness.

Research Priority Area	Goals of Our Research	What We Want to Know	Research Projects/Topics
Barriers & Solutions to Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and verify the barriers that exist Evaluate success of proposed solutions Make actionable recommendations Improve student outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of Dallas College on identifying barriers and how the college can improve in addressing them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dallas County Promise program Community college bachelor's degrees Admission/recruitment, registration and onboarding
Post-College Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase economic mobility, living wage rates, transfer rates, and in-field job placement rates Bridge the skills gap and identify academic programs of high demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student wellness after they leave, transfer, or graduate from Dallas College Policies/services that provide long-term support for community college student success Career Services' role in program of study selection, completion, and job placement Impact of experiential learning on students' return on investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic outcomes of community college students in Texas The impact of Dallas College across generations Equitable transfer pathways and economic mobility Outcomes Assessment Lab of Dallas College students with LMIC Wage analysis of workforce training programs
Unique Student Populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the needs of students and provide strategic solutions Respond promptly to students' feedback Ensure students of each unique population are able to achieve their intended goals at Dallas College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to facilitate the timely addressing of barriers Differences and similarities between Dallas College and other institutions The extent to which the student success gap is closing over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English language learners Dual enrollment students Longitudinal analysis of Dallas-area high school graduates Dual credit P-TECH programs Adult learners, student-parents, create new center with CPAL International students Opportunity Youth: DFW HS grads
Institutional Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform college leadership and decision-makers about student success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which all students at Dallas College attain success The prevalence of each element used to create the "North Star" measure of success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KPI external benchmarking system "North Star" metrics Community College Outcomes Survey - Richmond Fed.