

**MCC PSA**  
**September**  
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Mayland Community College has ranked in the top 50 community colleges for the second time according to *Washington Monthly's* 2013 ranking of America's 50 best community colleges. The rankings for America's 50 best community colleges stems from information gathered by a nonprofit organization based out of Austin, Texas. Mayland was ranked 32 in the top 50 community colleges.

Since 2001, the nonprofit organization called the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), has gathered information about community colleges. They focus their research looking at which community colleges do the best job of adopting institutional practices and encouraging student habits. Both topics have been shown, through years of research, to be strongly correlated with higher levels of learning.

Mayland Community College first began using the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) in 2004 as a response to the college's work for the accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Because most community colleges do not administer the survey every year, *Washington Monthly* combines results from the three most recent available years: 2010, 2011, and 2012. For colleges that participated more than once, *Washington Monthly* used the most recent year. More than two-thirds of all community colleges—roughly 700 institutions—were included in the analysis.

The CCSSE survey is comprised of more than 100 questions on a range of topics including teaching practices, student workload, interaction with faculty, and student support. The CCSSE combines the results of those questions into aggregate “benchmark” scores in five categories: “Active and Collaborative Learning,” “Student Effort,” “Academic Challenge,” “Student-Faculty Interaction,” and “Support for Learners.”

College's ranking is also based on data compiled annually by the National Center for Education Statistics at the U.S. Department of Education. Measures of the percentage of first-time fall enrollees who are still enrolled the following fall, or earn a degree or certificate during that time, measures of the percentage of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking students who graduate or transfer within three years of enrolling, and measures of the ratio of all degrees awarded during a given academic year to the number of full-time equivalent students enrolled are also considered.

CCSSE survey results for Mayland show areas where Mayland excels above other small community colleges that include students working with each other on class projects, faculty/staff talking with students about their career plans, and students talking with faculty outside of class. The advising process has recently been a focal point for

the college, and Mayland scored very high on faculty/student interaction and student services questions.

The *Washington Monthly* ranking of America's 50 best community colleges can be found at

[http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/college\\_guide/rankings\\_2013/community\\_rank.php](http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/college_guide/rankings_2013/community_rank.php)

**Photo cutline**

Mayland Community College has ranked 32nd in the *Washington Monthly's* 2013 ranking of America's 50 best community colleges.