



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
West Highland College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean  
Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

# West Highland College UHI



**Scottish Funding Council  
Key Performance Indicators**

**2016/17**

## West Highland College Summary Report for: Scottish Funding Council Performance Indicators 2016/17

The Scottish Funding Council publishes official statistics on college performance every year. Each year all colleges must publish their set of performance indicators (PI) on college websites. This helps make the college performance data more available and visible to individuals, communities, employers and college partners.

### College Context

West Highland College UHI (WHC) is one of thirteen academic partners within the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) and is the main provider of further and higher education in the West Highlands of Scotland. The college is a rurally based college, operating in ten communities, across Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross covering an area approximately half the size of Wales. Much of the area is very rural and remote. The population of the area is around 40,000. Fort William in Lochaber is the most sizeable town with a population of around 10.5 thousand.

The college offers a broad choice of education and training opportunities across a range of levels, in further and higher education.

- Access
- National Qualifications
- Higher National Certificates and Higher National Diplomas
- Degrees, Masters and Post Graduate Research

The college is funded for both further and higher education. The Scottish Funding Council PIs for WHC are included at the end of this report and represent further education activity only (SCQF level 1 – 6) which is 84.3% of college funded activity in the academic year 2016/17.

### Executive Summary

The main college priority is to support every student in achieving his or her programme successfully and in supporting the onward progression into employment or further and higher education.

The college Executive Leadership Team oversees and reviews learning and teaching and student support on all programmes every year, through a process called self-evaluation. Staff use self-evaluation to identify strengths and areas of good practice by working together with students and stakeholders. They also identify areas for development and subsequently take forward actions for improvement. Through the new Education Scotland Quality Framework, a college-wide enhancement plan identifies college appropriate actions. The college evaluation report and enhancement plan is endorsed by Education Scotland and is published on the college website. Where student retention or student success is less than the college aspirational target, the Academic Affairs team will further scrutinise programme design and monitor student experience and learning and teaching. The college ensures that appropriate team action plans are in place to address issues and that these plans are monitored together with the college enhancement plan.

This is the fifth successive year that full time student success at West Highland College UHI is well above the national average of the sector.

## Key points

In 2016/17, 70.5% of full time students successfully completed their course. This figure is 5.2% above the national sector average.

In 2016/17 88.9% of part time students successfully completed their course. This figure is 8% above the national sector average.

Students achieve well in a number of subject areas on courses lasting more than 160 hours. However, a majority of subject area performance indicators are not presented within the SFC performance indicator publication, because there were less than 50 students enrolled on these programmes at WHC. (See explanation in the next section)

The table below shows student success rates on all programmes lasting longer than 160 hours by department.

Departments	%
Business, Administration	75%
Child, Health & Social Care, Personal Devp. & Core Skills	68.5%
Computing, ICT & Digital Media	60.3%
Construction, Renewables, Engineering & Science	63.9%
Creative Arts	79%
Environmental, Maritime & Rural Studies	93%
Outdoor Adventures, Sports & Recreation (FE)	96%
Special Needs	82.4%
Tourism & Hospitality	74.2%

Programme action plans are in place to share best practice and to address areas for improvement where course performance is not meeting aspirational college targets.

## Understanding the SFC Performance Indicator Publication

The Performance Indicators (PIs) are based on student records submitted via the Further Education Statistics (FES) system. This is an automated data capture and record system, which encompasses built-in iterative quality checks to ensure the data, is correct and credible. SFC verify the data and then the data is used for PI purposes. In addition to SFC checks, every college Principal must sign-off the data as a true and accurate record for their college.

Most charts contain three components, three contain percentage figures; one component describes the percentage of students who completed successfully, the second is the percentage of students that completed the course year with partial success, and the third are those students who withdrew from their chosen programme of study during the academic year. All of these values have been calculated as a percentage of all enrolments.

The charts detail the outcomes for both full time students, on a course (>600 hours) and part time students ranging from 320 hours to less than 10 hours of learning.

Where the number of enrolments is less than 50 in a category, data has been suppressed and is not shown. SFC state that this avoids spurious statistical accuracy in the published pass rates and reduces the risk of incorrect conclusions being drawn from pass rates based on small numbers. Therefore, when viewing the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) performance indicator paper for West Highland College UHI the following points must be noted:

West Highland College UHI (WHC) is a rural college serving a widely dispersed population of 40,000 across Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross. The numbers of students enrolling on courses are relatively small in a majority of the subject groupings and therefore do not appear on the SFC chart 8 on page 7. The college has provided the figures for all relevant college subject groupings below the SFC chart.

In 2016/17, the following number of students were enrolled on courses of more than 160 hours of learning in the subject groupings/departments:

Departments	Enrolment
<b>Special Programmes</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Hospitality &amp; Tourism</b>	<b>520</b>
<b>Child, Health &amp; Social Care, Personal Devp. &amp; Core Skills</b>	<b>889</b>
<b>Construction, Renewables, Engineering &amp; Science</b>	<b>260</b>
<b>Computing, ICT &amp; Digital Media</b>	<b>199</b>
Business, Administration	163
Creative Arts	320
Environmental, Maritime & Rural Studies	257
Leisure	103
Outdoor Adventures, Sports & Recreation (FE)	49
Social Sciences, Languages & Humanities	202

The SFC chart 8 on page 7 only details the groupings in bold above, WHC have provided an additional chart 8.2, below this to show PI's for all programme groupings that have less than 50 in their category.

For full guidance on understanding how SFC performance indicators are presented please read the [SFC Statistical Publication: College Performance Indicators 2016/17](#)

# West Highland College 2016-17 Performance Indicators

Chart 1. Outcomes for FE on recognised qualifications (full-time)

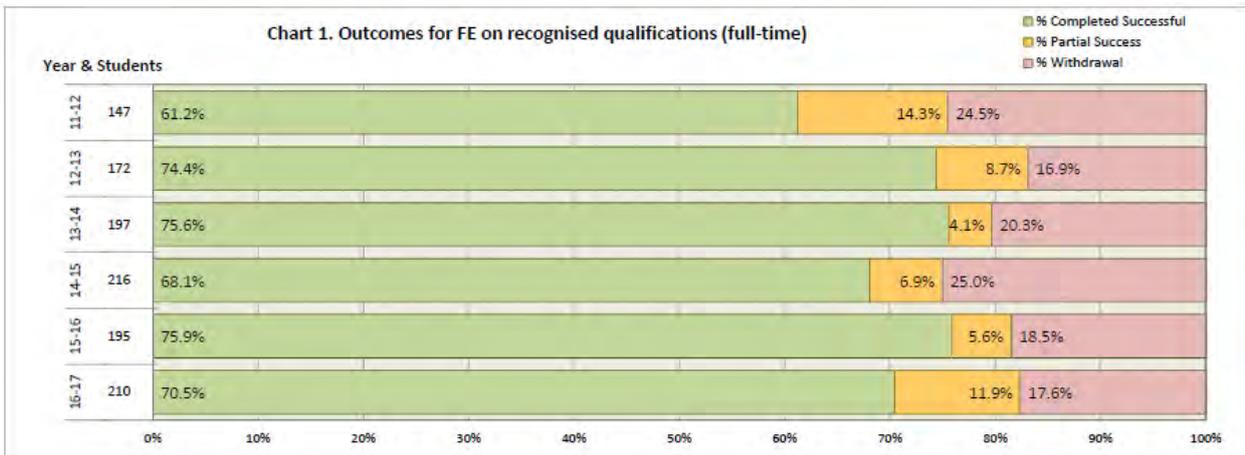


Chart 2a. Outcome Totals for FE on recognised qualifications (part-time)

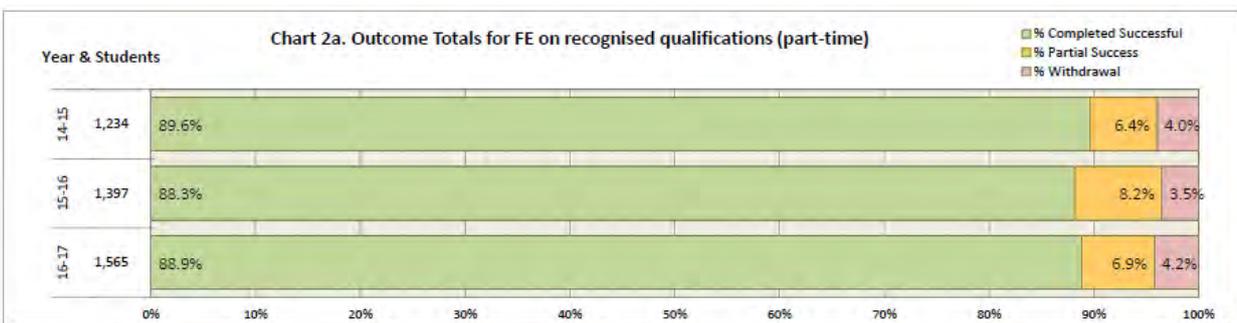
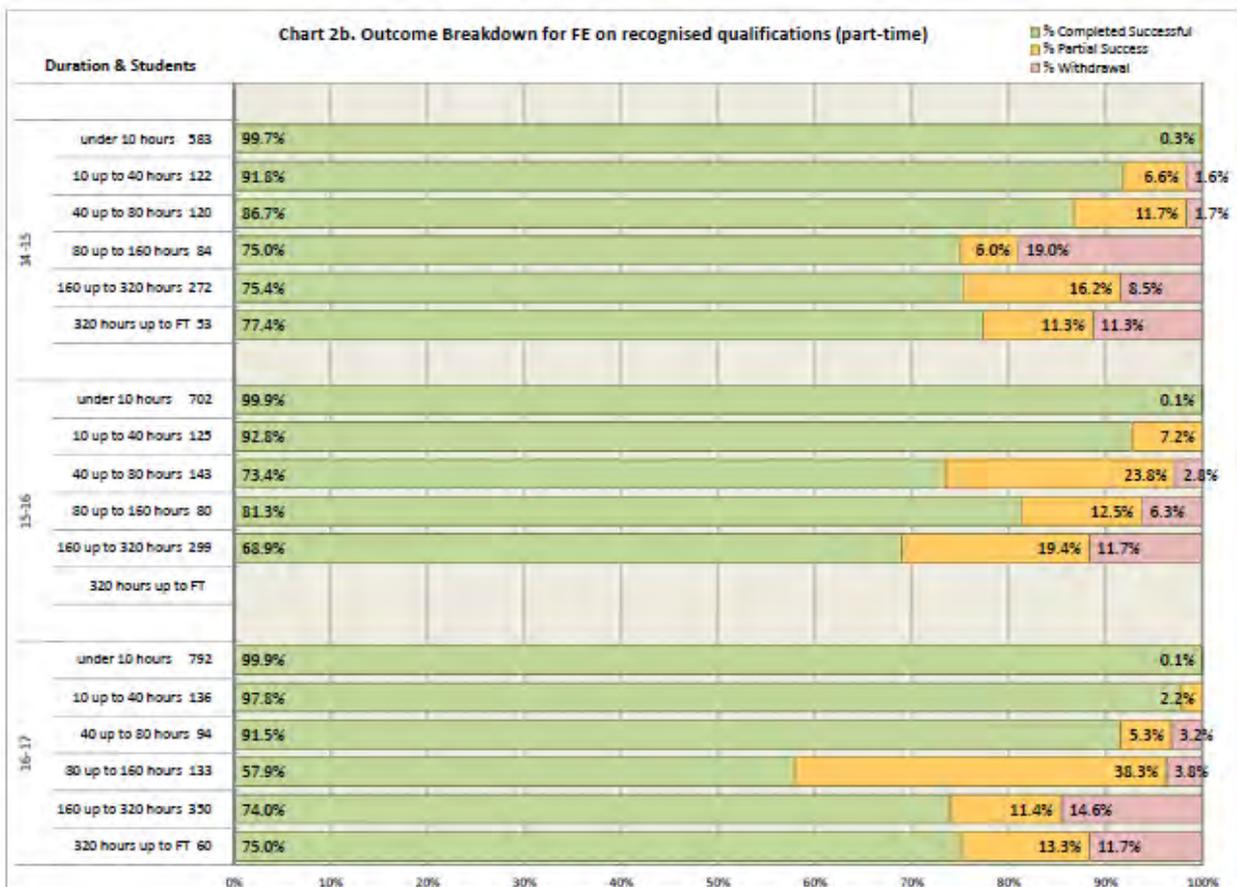
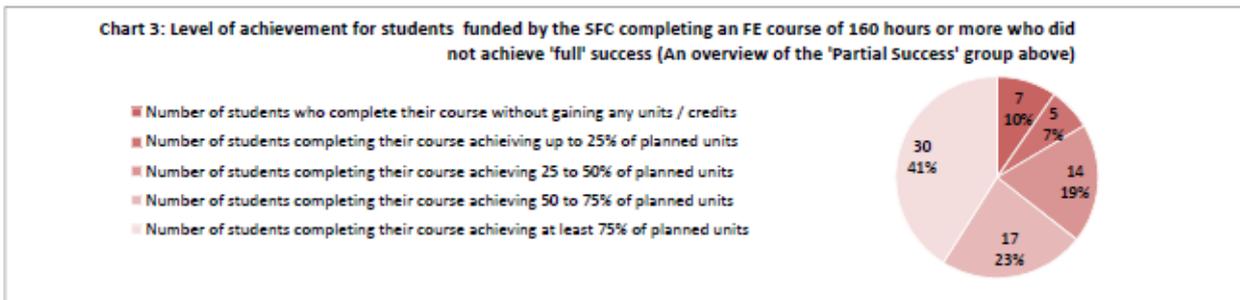


Chart 2b. Outcome Breakdown for FE on recognised qualifications (part-time)



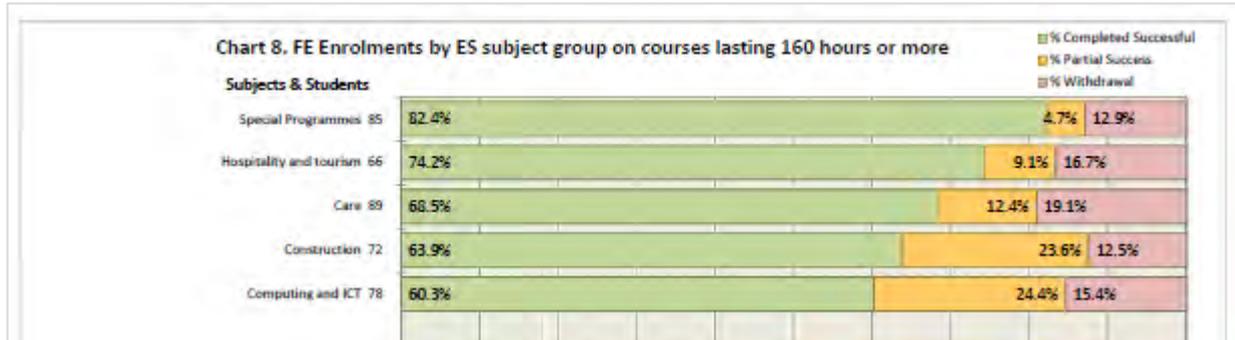
**Chart 3. Achievement for FE students with partial success**



**Chart 7. Enrolments by age group on courses lasting 160 hours or more**



**Chart 8. FE Enrolments by ES subject group on courses lasting 160 hours or more**



**Chart 8.2 WHC FE Enrolments by ES subject group on courses lasting 160 hours or more with less than 50 enrolments per category**



Chart 10. Enrolments by level and gender on courses lasting 160 hours or more

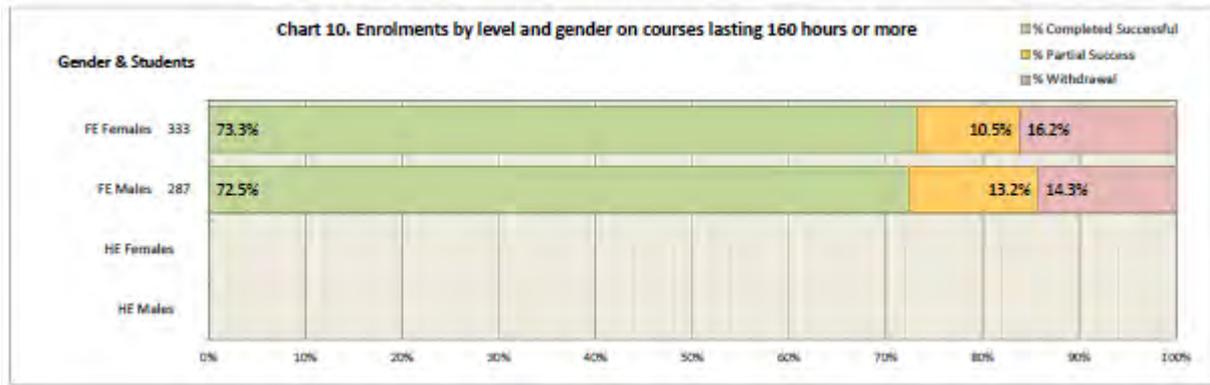


Chart 11. Enrolments by key group on courses lasting 160 hours or more

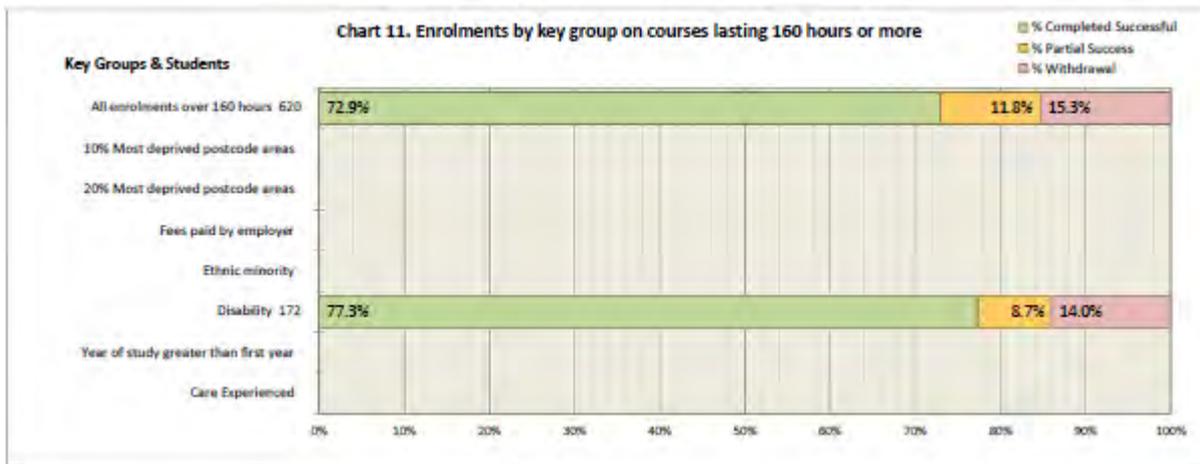


Chart 12. Credit targets and achieved (core plus ESF)

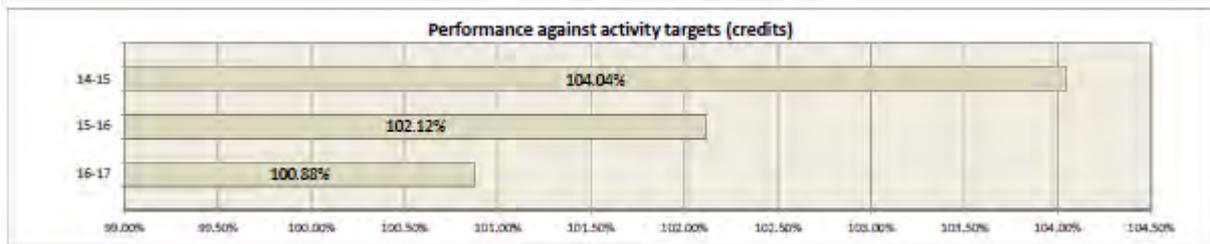
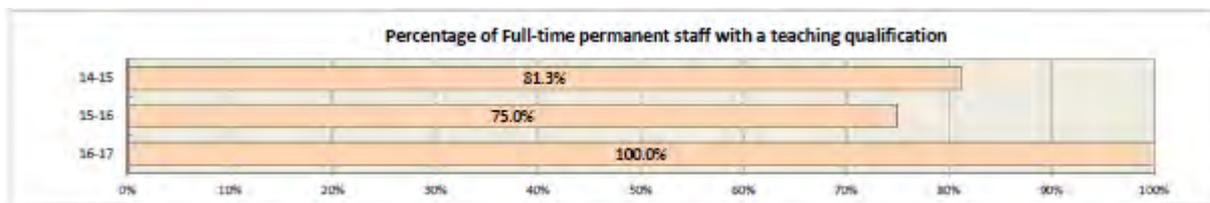


Chart 13. Staff with a recognised teaching qualification



Further data and information relating to the charts above is available here: [SFC-Key-Performance-Indicators-Charts-For-WHC-2016-17](#)