



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

2015/16

West Highland College Summary Report for: Scottish Funding Council Performance Indicators 2015/16

The Scottish Funding Council publishes official statistics on college performance every year. This is the third year whereby all colleges must publish their set of performance indicators (PI) on college websites. This helps make the college performance data more available 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 approximately a sixth of the land mass of Scotland. Much of the area is sparsely populated, Fort William being the most sizeable town (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 at the end of this report and represent further education activity only (SCQF 1 – 6) which is 87.4% of college funded activity in the academic year 2015/16.

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 oversees and reviews the learning and teaching and student support on all programmes every year, through a process called self-evaluation. This process identifies strengths and areas of good practice to share. It also identifies areas for development. Where student retention or student success is less than the college aspirational target, the management team will further scrutinise programme design and monitor student experience and learning and teaching. The college ensures that appropriate action plans are in place to address issues and that these plans are monitored.

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

Key points

81.5% of FE students completed their full time programme and 75.9% of students achieved the programme award.

Student success rate is 10.4% above the national sector average.

Overall, part time student achievement is above the national sector average.

Students achieve very 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 programmes lasting longer than 160 hours and which are well above the sector average, by subject grouping.

Special Programmes	89.7%
Construction	83.5%
Arts and design	70.6%
Sport and Leisure	82.8%
Performing Arts	77.8%
Hospitality and Tourism	83.0%
Education and Training	80.5%
Hairdressing and Complementary Therapies	68.8%
Media	70.8%

Programme action plans are in place to share best practice and to address areas for improvement.

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. Only when the data has been verified will SFC permit the data to be used for PI purposes. In addition to SFC's checks, every college Principal must also sign-off the data as a true and accurate record for their college.

Most charts contain two percentage figures; the first describes the percentage of students who successfully completed the course year and the second is the percentage that completed the course year irrespective of their result. Both these values have been calculated as a percentage of all enrolments.

Most of the charts are based on student enrolments on full time (>640 hours) and part time courses which range from 400 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 should be noted:

West Highland College UHI is a rural college serving a widely dispersed population of 40,000 across Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross. Therefore, the numbers of students enrolling on courses are relatively small and a majority of the subject groupings appear blank in the SFC chart on page 6. In 15/16 students enrolled on courses of more than 160 hours of learning in the following subject groupings:

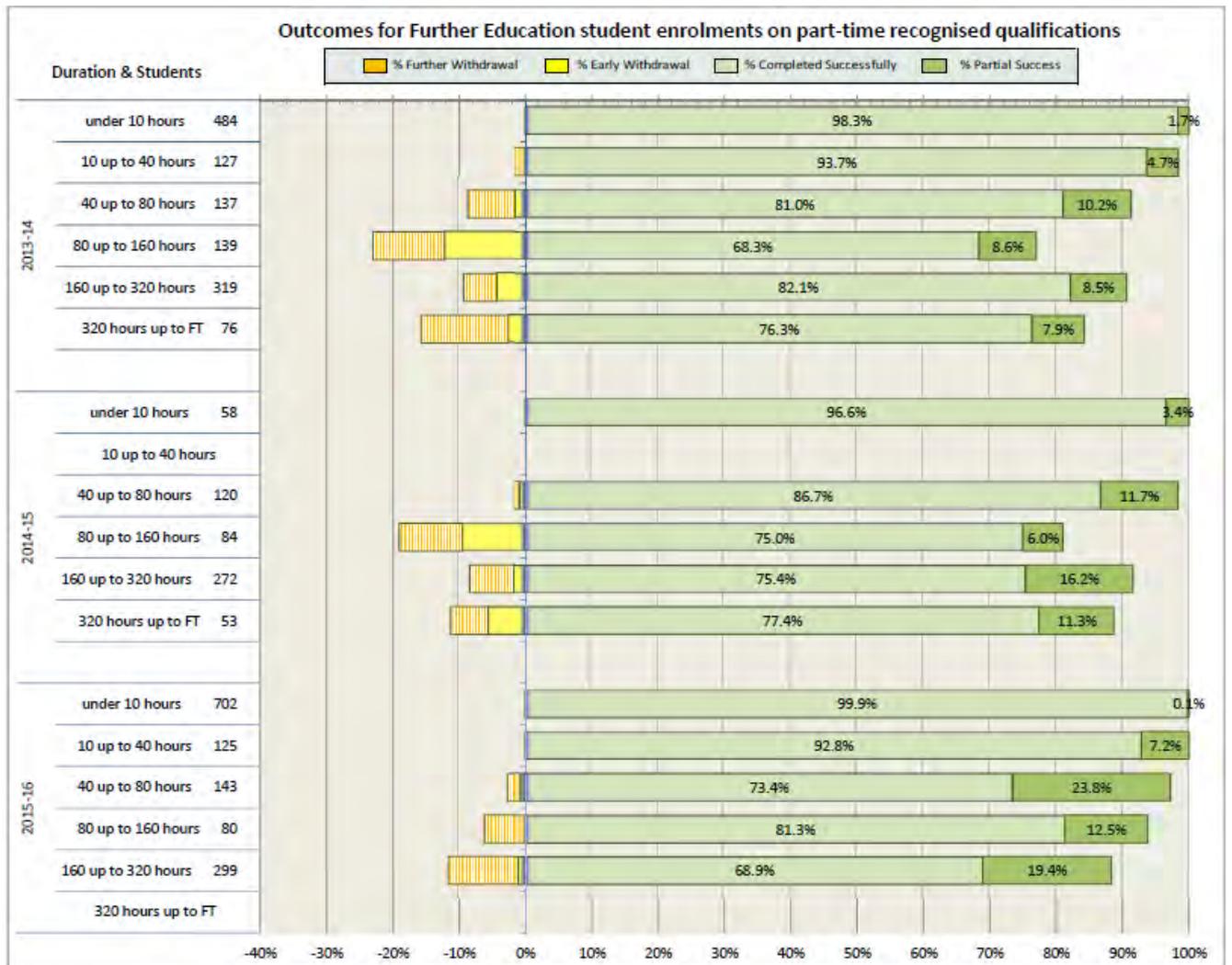
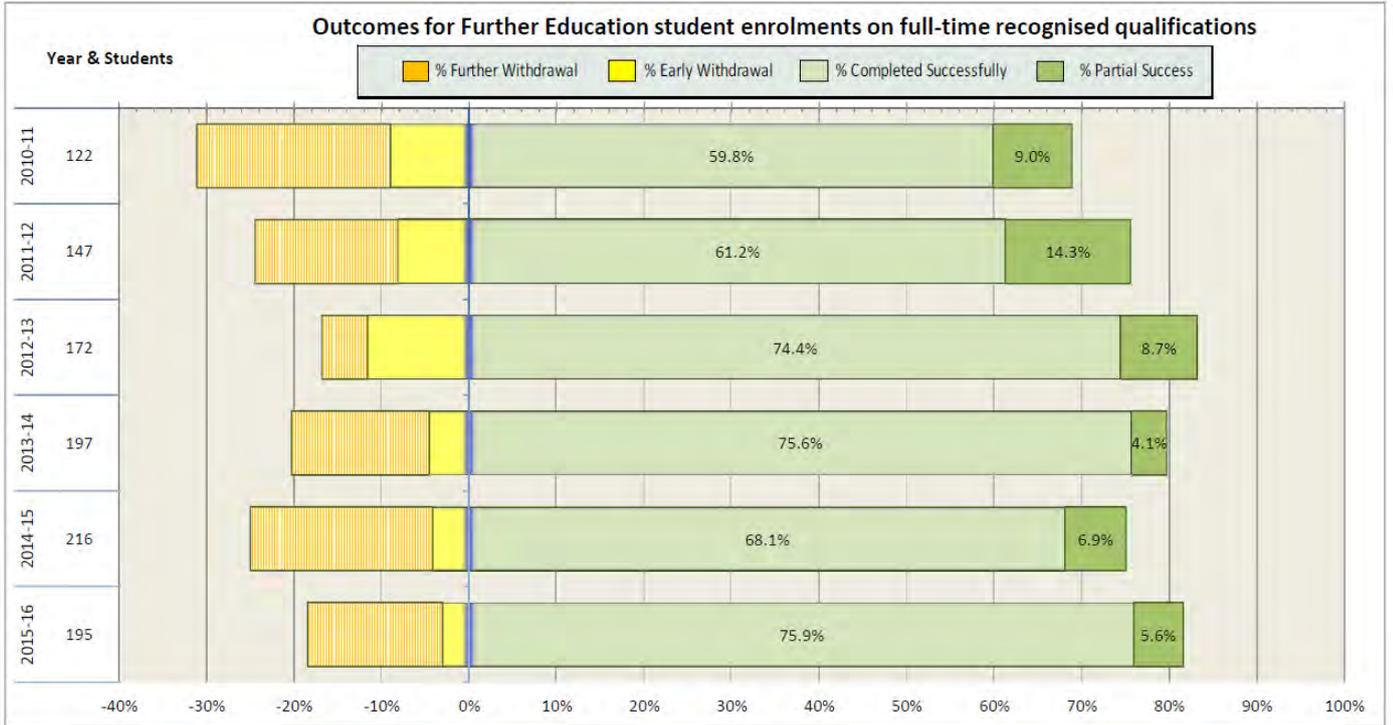
- Art and Design
- Business, Management and Administration
- Care
- Computing and ICT
- Construction
- Education and Training
- Hairdressing, Beauty and Complementary Therapies
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Land-based Industries
- Media
- Nautical Studies
- Performing Arts
- Social Subjects
- Special Programmes
- Sport and Leisure

Also, there were 48 students enrolled on programmes of 320 hours up to full time but because this is less than 50, the data is not represented in the SFC chart on page 5. Similarly, the number of students who fall into key groups of students are very small and therefore are not represented in the chart on page 7.

For full guidance on understanding how SFC performance indicators are presented please read the [SFC Statistical Publication: College Performance Indicators 2015/16](#)

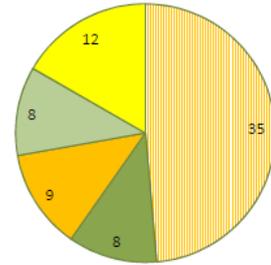
West Highland College 2015-16 Performance Indicators

Charts produced by the Scottish Funding Council are on pages 5 - 7

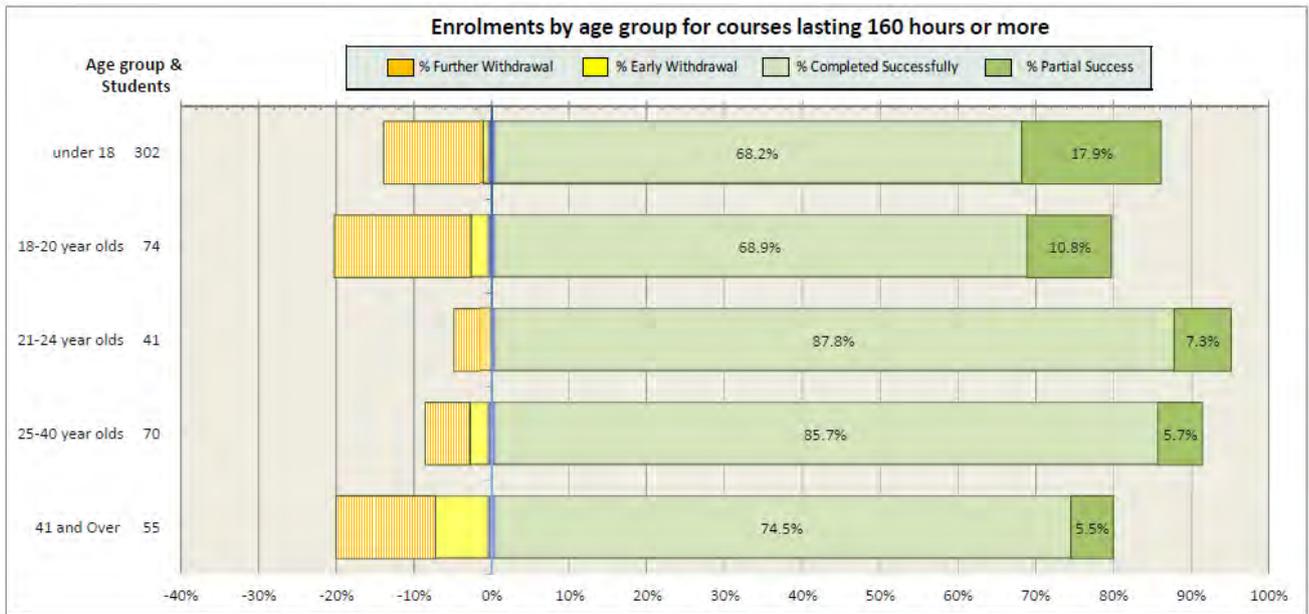


**Level of achievement for students completing an FE course of 160 hours or more who did not achieve 'full' success
(An overview of the 'completed partial success' group above)**

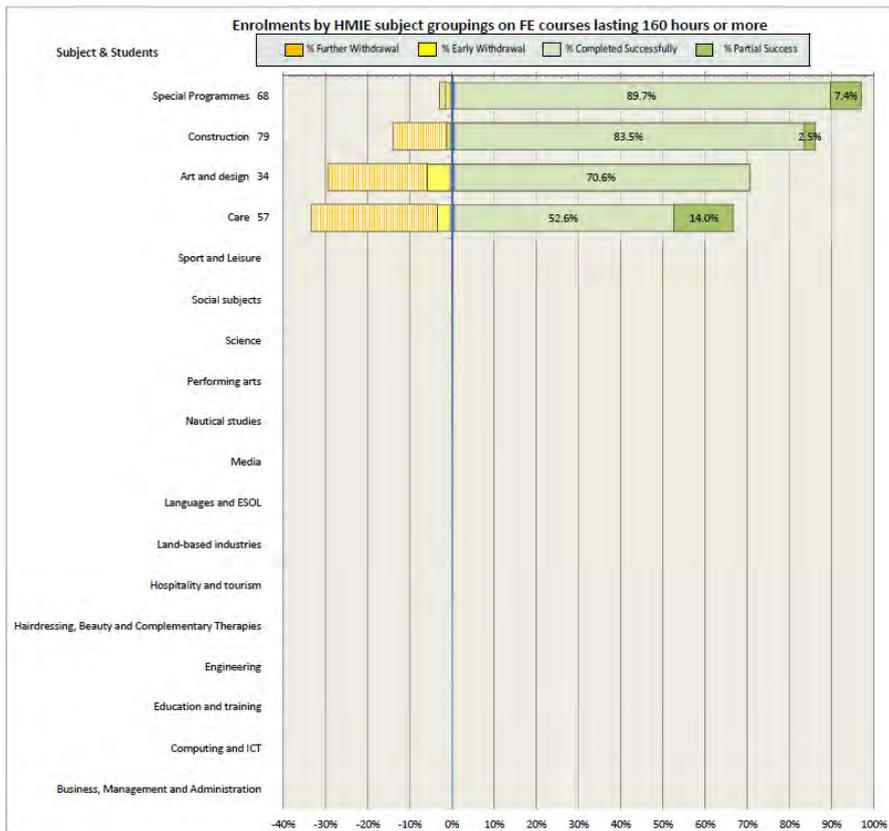
- Number of students who complete their course without gaining any units / credits
- Number of students completing their course achieving up to 25% of planned units
- Number of students completing their course achieving 25 to 50% of planned units
- Number of students completing their course achieving 50 to 75% of planned units
- Number of students completing their course achieving at least 75% of planned units

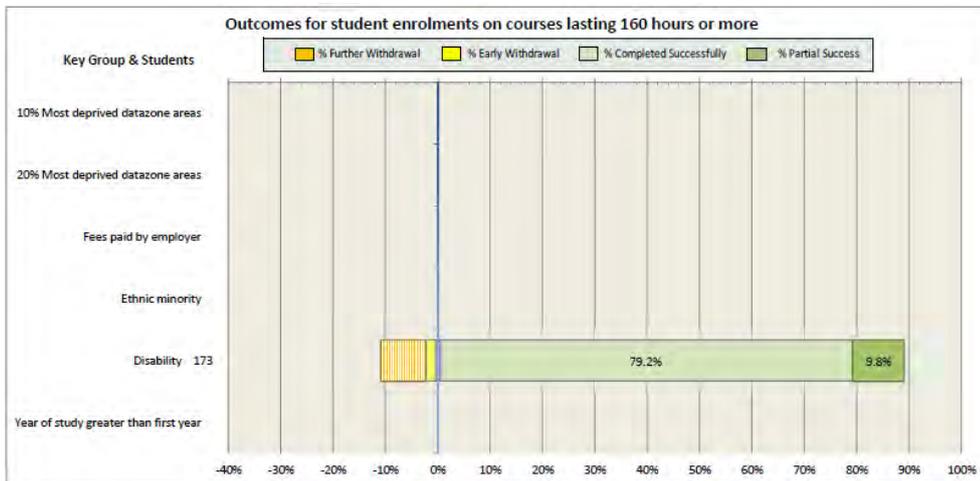
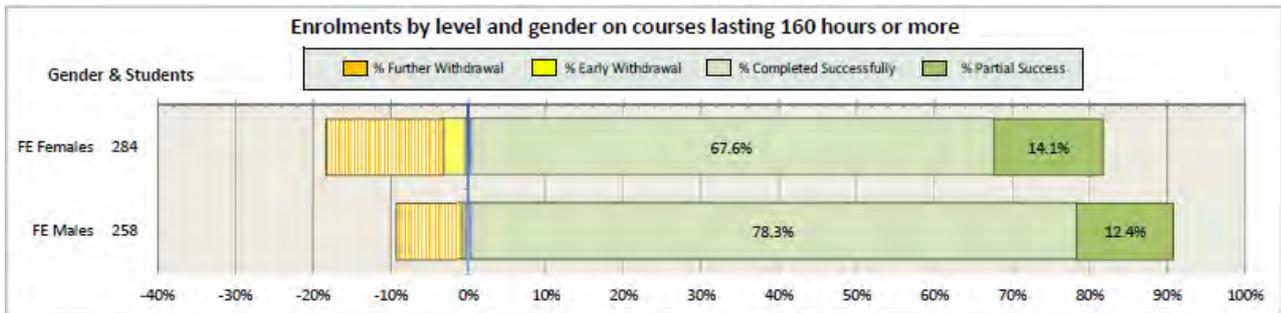


Enrolments by age group for courses lasting 160 hours or more

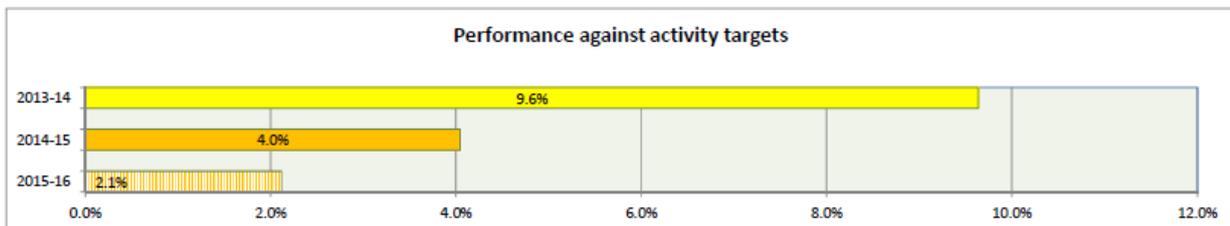


Enrolments by HMIE subject groupings on FE courses lasting 160 hours or more





Performance against activity targets



Characteristics Data – All Enrolments

West Highland College UHI produced the following charts to display enrolments by characteristic. The data has not been suppressed where there are fewer than 50 students.

