

Palmetto College Campus Peers

2015

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Primary Sources: *2015 Higher Education Directory (paper and web site) and AAUP web site*

Below is a list of US institutions that closely match the Palmetto College Campuses of USC, based on the following criteria:

1. All of these institutions are members of public university systems.
2. The institutions listed are classified by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) as institutions offering rank to professors. Most of the flagship (as in USC Columbia) institutions listed below reside in AAUP Category I (Doctoral) defined as follows: "Institutions characterized by a significant level and breadth of activity in doctoral-level education, as measured by the number of doctorate recipients and the diversity in doctoral programs. Institutions in this category grant a minimum of 30 doctorate degrees annually, from at least three distinct programs. (Awards previously categorized by NCES as first-professional degrees, such as the J.D., M.D., and D.Div. do not count as doctorates for this classification. Awards for the new category of "doctor's degree - professional practice" will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.)."

Most of the regional campuses listed below reside in AAUP in Category III (Two-year Institutions with Academic Ranks), described in the AAUP literature as follows: "Institutions characterized by a significant emphasis on undergraduate associate's degree education. Institutions in this category grant a minimum of fifty associate's degrees annually. Associate's degrees comprise at least 50 percent, and bachelor's and higher degrees comprise less than 50 percent, of total degrees and certificates awarded."

While each USC Palmetto College Campus may not meet the "letter of the law" on these specific criteria, this category, arguably, best describes our current efforts, especially as we 1. Concern ourselves with the campus Success Rate (defined as either: a. still enrolled, b. graduated, or c. transferred) as opposed to actual degree attainment and 2. Continue to develop the baccalaureate-driven Palmetto College programs. Source: AAUP Institutional Categories 2013-14: <https://research.aaup.org/Help/InstitutionalCategories.htm>

3. With faculty rank established as an essential criterion, "structural imperatives" must be addressed. A way of doing so can be found in the Carnegie classification schema as found in the Higher Education Directory. A "best match" for the USC Columbia – Palmetto College Campuses structure can be found in following Carnegie classifications: 1. A classification of "RU/VH: Research Universities (very high research activity) within the Doctoral-granting Universities category combined with 2. Assoc/Pub2in4: Associate's – Public 2-years Colleges under Universities within the Associate's Colleges category (Source: 2014 Higher Education

Directory, p. xlvii). Finally, the best match possible when consulting the Higher Education Directory is presented when viewing a regional campus and the following footnote appears: "Regional accreditation is carried under University of \_\_\_\_\_.

4. A hard cap of less than 2000 headcount enrollment was established as our largest campus for fall 2013 was 1811 and growth past 2000 for any of the campuses does not seem realistic for the foreseeable future.
5. No attempt was made to suggest which institutions should serve as peers and which should be considered as aspirational peers as this is usually done based on enrollment growth which as opposed to the more desirable but more complicated assessment of program mix.
6. Eliminations (in addition to size): 1. Any institutional systems in which the descriptors community college, technical college, or agricultural college, were found, 2. State university systems with board of regent over site 3. Lack of a discernable online presence, and 4. campuses that represented the lone regional campus of the system.
7. Other Carnegie classifications explored. In addition to the Assoc/Pub2in4 classifications noted above, an institutional search in all potential classifications was pursued. This search yielded possible peers in two other classifications. These classifications are recognized in the list of peers and may be viewed as a viable substitute for the size-driven method of distinguishing current versus aspirational peers discussed above.
8. "Crosscheck:" To verify how the search strategy help up, an IPEDS Feedback Report was generated for each PC campus. This report includes an automated peer institution list. No additional peers that had not been previously vetted were discovered.
9. Vetting: Each institution included was vetted to assure that regional campus faculty where in a ranked system.
10. Each institution included was researched to ascertain what emphasis was placed on establishing and maintaining an online presence.

## Peer List

### **Assoc/Public 2in4: Associate's Public 2-year colleges under 4-year universities**

HC enrollment fall 2013

Kent State East Liverpool	1,672
Univ. of Wisconsin Colleges (13 campuses, online)	13,947

### **Assoc/Pub4 – Associate's Public 4-year Primarily Associates**

Ohio Univ. Eastern	1,091
Ohio Univ. Zanesville	2,042

### **Bac/Assoc: Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges**

Kent St. Salem	1,846
Penn St. DuBois	704
Penn St. Fayette (Eberly)	846
Penn St. Mount Alto	1,023
Ohio St. Mansfield	1,204
Ohio St. Marion	1,259

### **Indiana University Campuses**

The Indiana University system merits consideration because the institution represents the only peer/aspirational peer USC Columbia lists that has regional campuses. A review of the IU system yields enough similarities to include here, but to do so with caution. The main reason for inclusion is that IU has a strong history/practice of awarding associate degrees. That said, how, what kind, and where it awards them makes comparison to USC Palmetto College campuses challenging. Two campuses are listed below:

Indiana University East	4,456
Indiana University Kokomo	4,178

These campuses, representing two of IU's eight campus system, are included here because they are the closest in terms of enrollments to the USC Palmetto College Campuses and each campus offers associate degrees. However, at East, the degrees are offered through Purdue University and at Kokomo the associate degrees are in tech fields. Not listed above is the Fort Wayne which seems to offer the widest array of associate degrees but has an enrollment of nearly 14,000.