

**Palmetto College *Proposed* Peers and Aspirational Peers – November 2015**

Below you will find the most refined list possible, based on a number of limiting factors that will be explained following each campus' listing

**USC Lancaster**

Current:

New Mexico St. Carlsbad

UW Fox Valley

S.C Tech. College counterpart:

York Tech

Aspirational:

New Mexico St. Alamogordo

Univ. of New Mexico Gallup

Univ. of New Mexico Valencia County

Bowling Green Firelands

UW Waukesha

**USC Salkehatchie**

Current:

New Mexico St. Grants

Ohio St. Mansfield

UW Marathon County

S.C Technical College counterpart:

Denmark Tech

Aspirational:

Univ. of New Mexico Taos

Univ. of Akron Wayne College

**USC Sumter**

Current:

New Mexico St. Grants

UW Washington County

S.C Tech. College counterpart:

Central Carolina

Aspirational:

Ark. St. Mountain Home

Ohio St. Mansfield

UW Rock County

**USC Union**

Current:

Univ. of New Mexico Los Alamos

UW Baraboo/Sauk

UW Fond du Lac

UW Marshfield/Wood County

UW Richland

S.C Technical College counterpart:

Piedmont Tech

Aspirational:

Eastern New Mexico Ruidoso

UW Sheboygan

Notes: (in no order of importance as all variables are important)

- IPEDS Navigator was used with the following criteria: State; Level of Award = Associates; Institutional Type = 1. Public, 2 year, 4 year. This generated the state list and from here the following was examined: Carnegie Classification = Associates –Public 2 year colleges under 4-year universities strongly preferred and deviated from selectively); enrollment (fall 2014)/size (including faculty size); campus setting; whether housing existed on campus; and what I label as program mix which is the number of graduates in 2013-2014 – here the focus was on Associate Liberal Arts/Sciences degrees awarded as a proportion of all degrees awarded.
- I began my search using the automatically generated list of 48 peer that is created when you select one of the Palmetto College Campuses for review.
- I viewed the above criteria for all 48 and then expanded my search to review every state in the U.S. Doing so added campuses from the Eastern New Mexico St and Ohio St.
- From this point, there was not one single eliminating variable as I felt an institution and its flagship campus needed to be viewed holistically. Arguably, doing so interjects subjectivity into the process, but what I discovered confirmed, to me, just how unique we tend to be in this state with our separate branch campus and technical college systems. The most obvious challenge this presented is finding peers who seemed to emphasize the general AA/AS program of study/degree much as we do. That is why you see so many UW campuses on this list.
- Limiting the campus degrees to the associate level only presented a significant challenge and represents one of the reasons Penn St. campuses, long time considered as peers by us, do not appear as these campuses, in addition to awarding associate degrees, carry a different Carnegie Classification (that “leads” with Baccalaureate Colleges followed by some other distinction such as Arts & Sciences or Associate’s) and award baccalaureate degrees as well as associate degrees. If the above list is deemed too limiting, allowing for the consideration of these dual degree granting institutions would expand our list. Doing so, I offer, would recognize the considerable “on-the-ground efforts our campuses exert in providing the BOL and BLS degrees.
- A campus from another institution could be listed as a current peer for one of our campuses and an aspirational peer for another. This is primarily a function of size.
- Institutional size (enrollments) presented a significant challenge once the Carnegie Classification limitation was considered as we tend to trend small in comparison to other system institutions (which makes sense when you consider we don’t, with the exception of Lancaster, have a “tech side”).
- Speaking of Lancaster and their “tech side,” both this program mix and their size made it pretty easy to find aspirational peers. I generated a larger list than I reported (I eliminated pretty much on size) and can expand the list further if consideration of rather significantly larger institutions than Lancaster is now deemed prudent to consider.
- I included LSU Eunice as an aspirational peer for Lancaster even though it is considerably bigger (2738) in part because LSU is a southern institution and a sister SEC institution. As in my prior peer comparison work, I eliminated any institution that contained Technical, Community College, and/or Agricultural in its name.
- Other “cautions:” in the case of the Eastern New Mexico and Arkansas St campuses, I used Mountain Home and Ruidoso, respectively, even though their flagship campuses carry the Carnegie Classification of “Masters Colleges and Universities” which is a few steps “below” the

classification of USC which is Research Universities very high research activity). The rest of the flagships are either the same as us or one step “down” – RU – high research activity.

- Note that USC Sumter was a challenge in terms of faculty mix in that most institutions their size have fewer fulltime faculty. Therefore, this made it a challenge to pick aspirational peers as USC Sumter in many cases already succeeded the number of FT faculty at larger institutions.
- The S.C. Technical college associated with each Palmetto College campus was chosen based on its geographic proximity to its respective USC campus.
- Ohio University was left off the list based on a careful reading of their general AA/AS degree notation that describes the degrees as being delivered online only.
- As mentioned previously, most other system campuses have a tech side that made examination of the emphasis on the general AA/AS a challenge. That said, some of this program mix of associate degrees is in 1. “Liberal arts” fields such as psychology and social sciences as well as 2. “terminal” programs such as business, “security” (including Criminal Justice), Education, and Health Professions that we either offer at Lancaster or offer or are considering as additions to our online programs. Just wanted you to know this if we need to consider expanding the above list.
- The Univ. Of Iconic Colleges information comes from the Colleges web site as opposed to IPEDS because the Colleges are listed as one entity in IPEDS. Because the web site was well designed, I feel comfortable with the consistency of what I reported, but do know that it is not IPEDS info.
- Speaking of web sites, I have not vetted these institutions at the micro level, including the all-important faculty structure. This is a function of both time and the fact that this a draft to be refined before additional work is pursued.

