

The Completion and HB 8 Funding Tool

Finding students who completed, or nearly completed, a credential that was never awarded, and what those awards are worth under House Bill 8 (HB 8)

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LONESTARP3 (RP3) Data Council, breakout session

Session objectives

1. Why credentials go unawarded, and what an unawarded credential costs a college under HB 8.
2. What the tool needs: the college's Degree Plan Workbook and three Coordinating Board Management (CBM) reports the college already submits.
3. What the tool returns: lists for the registrar and advisors, and an estimate of HB 8 funding.
4. What a pilot asks of a college, and where the tool's estimates stop.

Credentials earned but never awarded

39 of 54 certificates and occupational skills awards at Paris Junior College can be completed using only courses from one of its associate degrees.

- Example: the Level 1 welding certificate (17 semester credit hours, SCH) is five courses from year one of the Associate of Applied Science (AAS).
- Finishing those courses meets the certificate's requirements, filed or not.
- HB 8 pays only for credentials the college awards.

All five certificate courses are in year one of the AAS

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
WLDG 1323	COSC 1301	WLDG 1435	WLDG 2451
WLDG 1425	WLDG 1427	WLDG 2413	WLDG 2553
WLDG 1307	WLDG 1457	WLDG 1317	ENGL 1301
WLDG 1313	WLDG 1434	Core 020	Core 040/050
PSYC 1300 or core			

- Level 1 certificate: 5 courses, 17 SCH
- Rest of the AAS: 12 courses, 43 SCH

What this shows: the 17 required courses of the Welding Technology AAS by semester, 2026-2027 catalog; red marks the five courses of the Structural Steel Welding Level 1 certificate. The count of 39 compares every certificate and award with every associate degree in the catalog.

How HB 8 pays for outcomes

Outcome	Base rate
Associate or bachelor's degree	\$3,500
Level 1 or Level 2 certificate, advanced technical certificate	\$1,750
Occupational skills award, institutional credential leading to licensure	\$1,000
15 SCH of dual credit that apply toward a program requirement	\$3,500
Transfer to a university after 15 SCH (not in the tool)	\$3,500

Base rates in the fiscal year (FY) 2026 final funding model of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Credentials in high-demand fields earn higher rates; the tool applies base rates.

- Outcomes count more for academically or economically disadvantaged students (+25 percent each) and adult learners age 25 or older (+50 percent).
- Payment: the greater of the latest year or a three-year average.
- Proposed for FY2027: lower weights, a two-year average, and a five-year limit of one award per type (two Level 1 certificates).
- An unawarded credential earns nothing.

What the tool does

01

Degree plans

The college's Degree Plan Workbook: every credential in the catalog and the courses it requires.

02

Student records

Three CBM reports the college already submits: course history, awards conferred, and the census.

03

Completion check

Each student is checked against every program and placed in one group: completed, not filed; near completers; completed and filed; or enrolled, not near.

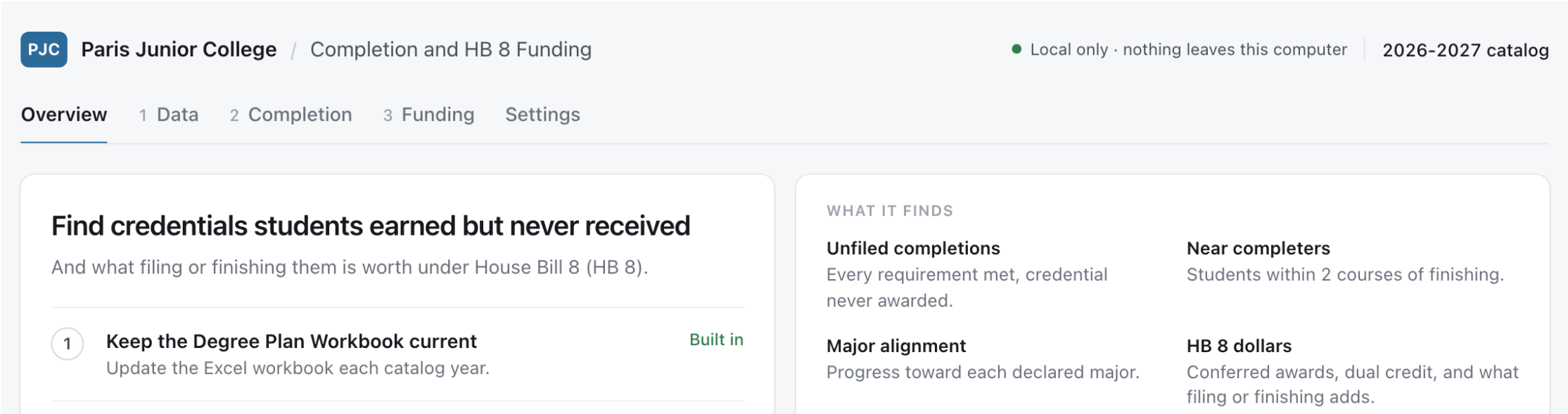
04

Funding estimate

Conferred, unfiled, and nearly finished awards valued at HB 8 rates, with student weights.

Runs on the college's own computer

- One file that opens in Chrome, Edge, Safari, or Firefox; nothing to install.
- Student records are read on that computer; nothing is uploaded, sent, or stored.
- Works offline, so it can run on a computer with no internet connection.



What this shows: the Overview tab of the Paris Junior College build. Load demo data adds synthetic students for practice.

One workbook and three CBM reports

Input	Contents	Used for
Degree Plan Workbook (Excel)	Every credential in the catalog and its required courses	The requirements each student is checked against
CBM00S, course history	Each student's courses, grades, and SCH by term	Which requirements each student has met
CBM009, graduation report	Awards conferred	Who already holds an award; funding for conferred awards
CBM0C1, census (optional)	Declared major, age, and disadvantage indicators	Student weights; comparison with the declared major

- Exported from the college's own student system in the layouts it already submits to THECB; column names are matched automatically.
- Students are matched across files by ID. Social Security numbers or any other ID used consistently in all three files will work.

The Degree Plan Workbook

Four sheets: Programs (one row per credential), Requirements (one row per course), Course Lists (core and approved electives), and a Change Log for yearly updates.

Semester	Requirement type	Course or list	Course title or description	SCH
First Semester	Required course	WLDG 1323	Welding Safety, Tools and Equipment	3
First Semester	Required course	WLDG 1425	Introduction to Oxy-Fuel Welding and Cutting	4
First Semester	Required course	WLDG 1307	Introduction to Welding Using Multiple Processes	3
First Semester	Required course	WLDG 1313	Introduction to Blueprint Reading for Welders	3
First Semester	Choose one	PSYC 1300 or Core 060 or Core 070 or Core 080	Learning Framework or Core Social and Behavioral Science Elective	3
...	...	...	...	
Fourth Semester	Required course	ENGL 1301	Composition I	3
Fourth Semester	Course from a list	Core 040/050 AAS	Core Language, Philosophy and Culture or Visual/Performing Arts Elective	3

What this shows: the Requirements sheet for Welding Technology (AAS) in the Paris Junior College workbook; 17 rows in all, middle rows omitted here. The Program ID is chosen from a list, and the program name fills in automatically.

Filling it out with the catalog open

If the catalog says	Choose	Type in Course or list
A specific course (ENGL 1301)	Required course	ENGL 1301
One course or another	Choose one	MATH 1314 or MATH 1324
An elective from a list	Course from a list	Core 040
Any course in a subject (BMGT elective)	Any course with prefix	BMGT
Just "Elective"	Free elective	(leave blank)

Lists such as the core curriculum areas are entered once on the Course Lists sheet and reused by every program that points to them.

- One program at a time, from the top of its catalog page to the bottom.
- "6 SCH from the list" becomes two rows.
- RP3 prepares the first year's workbook; the college checks it.
- Each year, update only the programs that changed and log them.

A built-in hours check

92 of 95 programs in the Paris Junior College workbook add up exactly to their catalog totals.

- Two catalog pages list fewer hours than their stated totals; the workbook notes each one.
- One program is inactive: the catalog lists no courses for it yet.
- The tool repeats the check when a workbook is loaded.

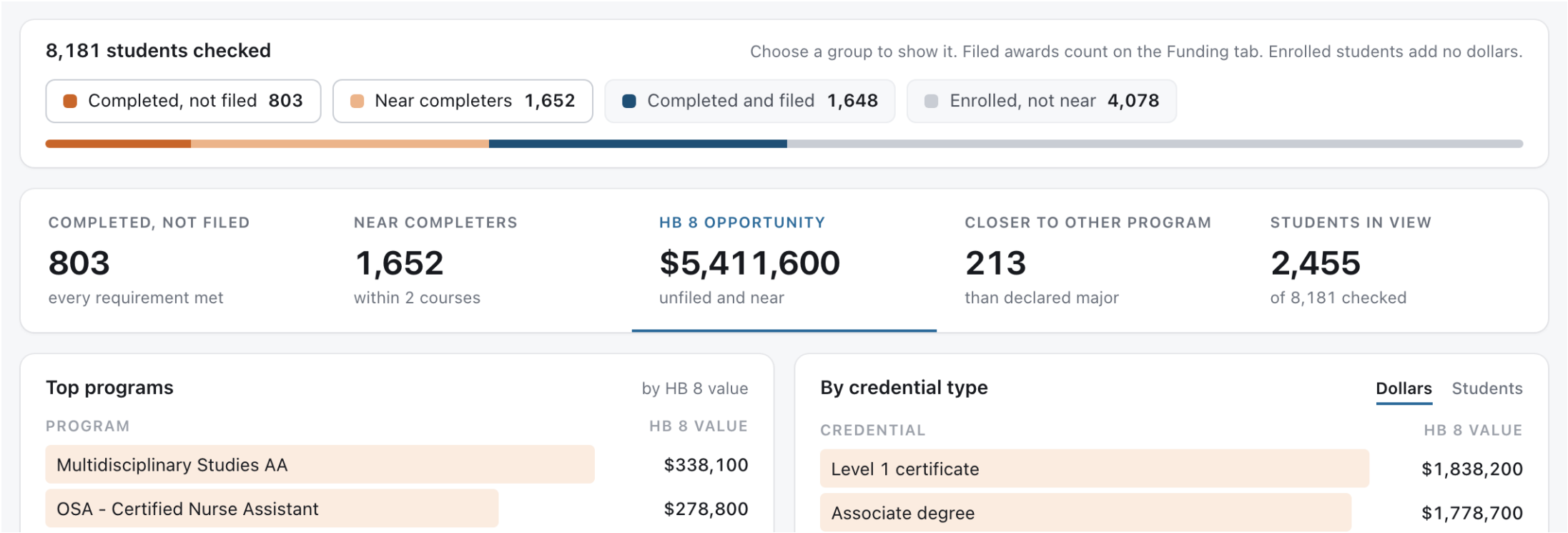
Program ID	Program name	Catalog total SCH	SCH listed	Hours check
MDAA	Multidisciplinary Studies AA	60	60	<i>Matches</i>
ACCT	Business Transfer Plan	60	60	<i>Matches</i>
AGRI	Agriculture Transfer Plan	60	57	<i>Short 3 SCH</i>
BIOL	Biology Transfer Plan	60	60	<i>Matches</i>
...	...			
EMSV	Emergency Medical Services	60	60	<i>Matches</i>
EMSB	Emergency Medical Technician, Basic, Level 1	16	13	<i>Short 3 SCH</i>
EMSA	Emergency Medical Technician, Advanced, Level 1	26	26	<i>Matches</i>
...	...			
WLDG	Welding Technology	60	60	<i>Matches</i>
...	...			
AMTA	Aviation Maintenance Technology, Airframe	60	0	<i>Inactive</i>

What this shows: rows from the Programs sheet, other rows omitted. SCH listed and Hours check fill in automatically from the Requirements sheet. The workbook holds 95 programs, 1,245 requirement rows, and 21 course lists.

Inside the tool

Near-completion results

Each of 8,181 synthetic students lands in one group: 803 completed, not filed; 1,652 near completers; 1,648 completed and filed; and 4,078 enrolled, not near.



What this shows: the Completion tab after a full run on 8,181 synthetic students in the CBM layouts, checked against the Paris Junior College degree plans. The numbers illustrate the tool; they are not Paris Junior College results.

What the registrar receives

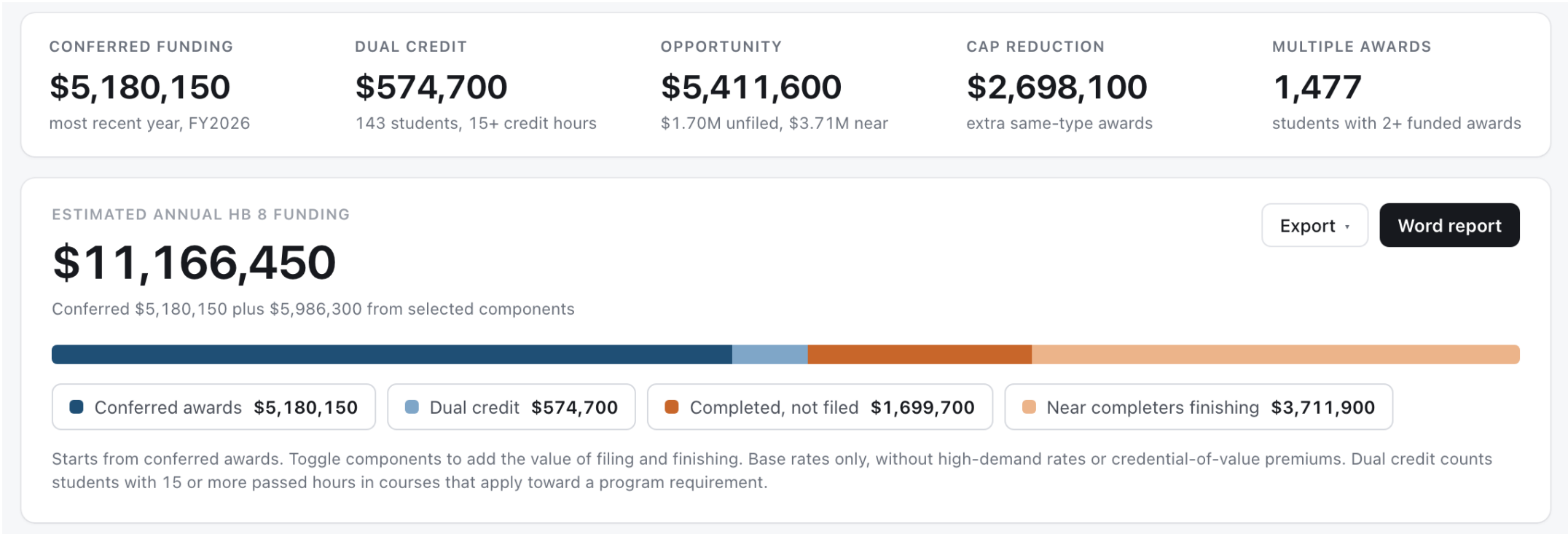
Student ID	Closest credential	Status	Still needed	HB 8 value
000203808	Air Conditioning Installer, Level 1 certificate	Met, award not filed	Nothing	\$2,450
000206470	Shielded Metal Arc Welding, occupational skills award	Met, award not filed	Nothing	\$1,200
000206312	Gas Metal Arc Welder, occupational skills award	1 course to go	WLDG 2447, Advanced Gas Metal Arc Welding	\$1,400
000205200	Jewelry Fabrication and Repair Technician, Level 1 certificate	2 courses to go	JLRY 1348 and JLRY 1349	\$2,100

Excerpt from the registrar list. Synthetic students; every ID begins with 000, a prefix never issued as a Social Security number. Values include each student's HB 8 weights.

- The registrar confirms each student through the degree audit before awarding; advisors receive the near completers with the courses each still needs.
- In the sample, 213 students are closer to a different program than the one they declared.

HB 8 funding estimate

In the synthetic sample, conferred awards pay \$5.18 million a year and dual credit outcomes \$0.57 million. Filing unfiled awards would add \$1.70 million, and near completers finishing \$3.71 million.



What this shows: the Funding tab with every component selected. Payment is the greater of the most recent year or the two-year average (proposed FY2027 rules), at base rates with student weights from the census report. Synthetic records.

Every assumption can be changed

- Switch between the current FY2026 rules and the proposed FY2027 rules.
- Edit base rates, weights, and award limits.
- Set passing grades (C or better, if required) and the near cutoff (default: two courses).

Model scenario

After changing settings, run the analysis again on the Data tab.

☐ FY26 current rules

3-year average, no cap, adult weight +50%.

☒ FY27 rules

2-year average, five-year one-per-type cap with two Level 1 certificates allowed, adult weight +40%.

Outcome rates

Dollars per award. FY26 final model base values.

CREDENTIAL	BASE	MAX IN 5 YEARS
Associate degree	3500	1

What this shows: the top of the Settings tab. Changes apply the next time the analysis runs.

Reports for each office

Download	Contents	For
Registrar list (Excel)	Students who met every requirement, and near completers, with the requirements still missing	Registrar
Advising list (Excel)	Near completers and the courses each one still needs	Advisors
Program summary (Excel)	Each student group and dollar value by program	Deans and program chairs
Funding detail (Excel)	Each conferred award with its weights, value, and the payment calculation	Business office, institutional research
Word reports	Two-page summaries of the current view, with charts	College leadership
CSV file	Every student in the current view, as comma-separated values (CSV)	Institutional research

Downloads follow the filters on screen and are built on the computer; nothing is sent anywhere.

Paris Junior College: Near-Completion View

LONESTAR3 Data Council completion tool - October 23, 2026 - Scenario FY27 - Degree plans: 2026-2027 catalog

Current view

Filter	Setting
Show	Unfiled and near
Credential	all
Alignment	all
Search	(none)

What this view shows

Within the current filters, 803 students have completed every requirement of a credential that was never awarded and 1,652 students are within 2 course(s) of completing one. Together these represent an estimated \$5,411,600 in HB 8 value at base rates, without high-demand rates or credential-of-value premiums.

Opportunity by program (current view)

Multidisciplinary Studies AA	\$338,100
OSA - Certified Nurse Assistant	\$278,800
Jewelry Fabrication and Repair T...	\$201,950
Structural Steel Welding - level 1	\$195,300
OSA - Maintenance Technician Hel...	\$180,600
OSA - Cisco Certified Network As...	\$165,600
Industrial Production Operator -...	\$143,150
OSA - HVAC Installer Helper	\$143,000
Emergency Medical Technician - B...	\$136,500
Entrepreneurship - level 1	\$136,500

First 15 students in this view, in table order

Student	Program	Status	% complete	Courses left	Value
000203699 Scott, Brittany	Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	Met, award not filed	100%	0	\$6,300
000204250 Smith, Karen	Computer Aided Design (Drafting)	Met, award not filed	100%	0	\$6,300
000203482 Hall, James	Radiology Technology	Met, award not	100%	0	\$6,300

What this shows: page 1 of the Word report for the near-completion view.

What a pilot college does

1. Shares its current catalog. RP3 prepares the Degree Plan Workbook, or the college fills in the blank workbook.
2. The registrar or catalog editor checks the workbook against the catalog and resolves any hours check flags.
3. Institutional research exports CBM00S, CBM009, and CBM0C1 covering at least the last three years.
4. The tool runs on a college computer, so student records stay on campus.
5. The registrar reviews the unfilled list, and advisors contact near completers.
6. The college tells the Council what the tool found correctly and what it missed. Findings only; no student records leave the college.

Limitations and future work

- **One catalog year.** Students are checked against the current catalog; students who entered under an earlier catalog may have followed different requirements.
- **Requirements not checked.** Residency (hours taken at the college), grade point average, admission, and clinical or licensure requirements.
- **Planning estimates.** Base rates and student weights, not official THECB calculations. High-demand field rates, credential-of-value premiums, and transfer outcomes are not included.
- **Dual credit.** Counts only courses that apply toward a program requirement; Early College High School and Texas First Diploma paths are not identified in CBM reports.
- **Candidates, not decisions.** The registrar confirms every award through the college's degree audit.
- **Future work.** Several catalog years at once.

Questions for discussion

1. Who at your college would keep the Degree Plan Workbook current: the registrar, the catalog editor, or institutional research?
2. Does the college award certificates automatically, or do students have to apply? What would change if eligible students were identified every term?
3. How should advisors reach near completers who have stopped attending?
4. Which report would the college use first, and who would receive it?

Questions

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