
Outcomes Framework & Assurance Model

2025-26 College Technical Guidance on measures used in OFAM

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Version 1.0

Introduction

1. This Technical Guidance provides the definitions for each of the measures pertaining to Scottish colleges in the Outcomes Framework & Assurance Model (OFAM) measures.
2. The full list of OFAM measures for colleges may evolve over time as new requirements and focus areas arise. SFC will, as a matter of course, continue to monitor all performance measures.
3. Definitions for the data and measures are provided at a high level. Outcome Managers will work with institutions to interpret and apply the measures by taking a data and insight centred approach that reflects the context and priorities of the institution.

General Notes

Definitions

4. Where a measure in this document has been sourced from the SFC's Further Education Statistics (FES) return, the fields and descriptions have been taken from the relevant FES guidance notes. [Full details of the FES field list and definitions](#) are available on the SFC website.
5. Where enrolment totals are calculated, only those which met the SFC funding date threshold are included. See [SFC credit guidance](#) for more details. This applies to all measures counting enrolments, entrants, qualifiers and outcomes.

UHI/SRUC HE Provision

6. HE provision data for UHI partner colleges and SRUC is returned via the HESA student record. For this reason, the University technical guidance provides the definitions for the measures pertaining to HE provision at these institutions

Student Enrolment Outcomes

7. To measure the outcomes and performance of Scotland's colleges, some OFAM measures calculate the proportion of enrolled students successfully achieving a recognised qualification for a given cohort. Such measures are based on the FES2 student record outcome and adhere to the methodology used in SFC's Student Outcomes publication. Guidance for the measures used in the publication can be found on the [SFC website](#).

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

8. The [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation \(SIMD\)](#) is provided by the Scottish Government (SG). [Postcode files linking postcodes to SIMD rank](#) are available on the National Records of Scotland (NRS) website via NRS Postcode Extracts in the Geography web page. Using the student postcode (FES 2 field: permanent home location (domicile of student)) a student is matched to a datazone and then to a SIMD rank. The ranks are divided into quintiles and deciles.
9. In this guidance MD20 = Quintile 1 and MD40 = Quintile 1 + Quintile 2.

Timing

10. This guidance will apply in Academic Year (AY) 2025-26. However, under OFAM data is monitored retrospectively based on the most recently available data returns. In the case of AY2025-26, this will be data relating to AY2023-24 or AY2024-25, when it is available.

Additional Guidance

11. This Technical Guidance should be used in conjunction with the general OFAM Guidance. The

general OFAM Guidance provides more detail on OFAM, setting out how SFC will monitor and engage with each college, college region and university, and is published alongside this Technical Guidance.

Outcomes Framework & Assurance Model – Colleges

Technical Measures Guidance

Measure	Data Source	Calculation	Notes
1: Number of enrolments	FES	Total number of student enrolments	Where enrolment totals are calculated, only those which met the SFC funding date threshold are included. See SFC credit guidance for more details. This applies to all measures counting enrolments, entrants, qualifiers and outcomes.
2a: Volume of credits delivered	FES	The total volume of credits delivered	
2b: Volume of credits delivered to learners in the 10% most deprived areas	FES	The total volume of credits delivered such that: - SIMD Decile = 1	

2c: Volume and proportion of credits delivered to learners in the 10% most deprived areas	FES	Numerator: The total volume of credits delivered such that: - SIMD Decile = 1 Denominator: The total volume of credits delivered such that: - SIMD Decile is known	
2d: Volume and proportion of credits delivered to learners that are care-experienced	FES	Numerator: The total volume of credits delivered such that: - FES 2 Care Experienced Student is 1 (Yes) Denominator: The total volume of credits delivered	
3a: COWA – Total Scottish-domiciled entrants to higher education courses	FES	Number of records such that: - FES 2 Permanent Home Location of Student is between 100 and 410 (inclusive) (Scottish-domiciled) - FES 1 Advanced/non-advanced programme = 1 (advanced) - FES 1 Year of course = 1 (first year)	Note all COWA measures include Next Generation Higher Nationals.
3b: COWA – Number and proportion of Scottish-domiciled entrants to higher education from the 20% most deprived areas	FES	Numerator: Number of records such that: - SIMD Quintile = 1 - All criteria from measure 3a are met Denominator: Number of records such that: - SIMD Quintile is known - All criteria from measure 3a are met	

4a: COWA – Total Scottish-domiciled qualifiers in higher education courses	FES	Numerator: Number of records such that: - FES 2 Student Record Outcome in (8, 22)* - All criteria from measure 3a are met Denominator: Number of records such that: - All criteria from measure 3a are met	*Records are excluded where: - Student record outcome is 8 and the student is in the first year of study - Student record outcome is 22 and the student is not in the first year of study
4b: COWA – Number and proportion of Scottish-domiciled qualifiers in higher education courses from the 20% most deprived areas	FES	Numerator: Number of records such that: - SIMD Quintile = 1 - All criteria from measure 4a are met Denominator: Number of records such that: - SIMD Quintile is known - All criteria from measure 4a are met	

5a: Number and proportion of enrolled students successfully achieving a recognised qualification (Full-time Further Education)

FES

Numerator: Number of records such that:

- Enrolment outcome is **Complete Success***
FES 1 **Advanced/non-advanced programme = 2 (non-advanced)**
- FES 2 **mode of attendance of student = 17 (full-time)**
- Record meets the **selection criteria***

Denominator: Number of records such that:

- FES 1 **Qualification Aim is not 'PB' (recognised qualification)**
- FES 1 **Advanced/non-advanced programme = 2 (non-advanced)**
- FES 2 **mode of attendance of student = 17 (full-time)**
- Record meets the **selection criteria***

*See the technical annex of SFC's [College Student Outcomes publication](#) for definitions of student outcomes and the selection criteria.

As part of OF&AM, measures 6a-d are also monitored for at a SIMD10 level and for Care-Experienced students.

5b: Number and Proportion of enrolled students successfully achieving a recognised qualification (Full-time Higher Education)

FES

Numerator: Number of records such that:

- Enrolment outcome is **Complete Success***
- FES 1 **Advanced/non-advanced programme = 1** (advanced)
- FES 2 **mode of attendance of student = 17** (full-time)
- Record meets the **selection criteria***

Denominator: Number of records such that:

- FES 1 **Advanced/non-advanced programme = 1** (advanced)
- FES 2 **mode of attendance of student = 17** (full-time)
- Record meets the **selection criteria***

5c: Number and Proportion of enrolled students successfully achieving a recognised qualification (Part-time Further Education)

FES

Numerator: Number of records such that:

- Enrolment outcome is **Complete Success***
- FES 1 **Advanced/non-advanced programme = 2** (non-advanced)
- FES 2 **mode of attendance of student is not 17** (part-time)
- Record meets the **selection criteria***

Denominator: Number of records such that:

- FES 1 **Advanced/non-advanced programme = 2** (non-advanced)
- FES 2 **mode of attendance of student is not 17** (part-time)
- Record meets the **selection criteria***

5d: Number and Proportion of enrolled students successfully achieving a recognised qualification (Part-time Higher Education)	FES	Numerator: Number of records such that: - Enrolment outcome is Complete Success* - FES 1 Advanced/non-advanced programme = 1 (advanced) - FES 2 mode of attendance of student is not 17 (part-time) - Record meets the selection criteria* Denominator: Number of records such that: - FES 1 Advanced/non-advanced programme = 1 (advanced) - FES 2 mode of attendance of student is not 17 (part-time) - Record meets the selection criteria*	
6: Proportion of sector leavers in positive destinations	SFC College Leavers Destination	As shown in SFC's College Leaver Destinations publication. Only full-time students who are sector leavers are in-scope.	See SFC College Leaver Destinations guidance for definitions of student destinations.
7: SSES – Proportion of positive responses to the question 'Overall, I am satisfied with my course'	SFC Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey	As shown in SFC's Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey publication.	See SFC Student Satisfaction and Engagement Survey guidance for more details.

Appendix A: Table of College Technical Measures in OF&AM

Table of measures by relevant OF&AM outcome

Measure	Outcome
1: Number of enrolments	Student Interests, Access and Success
2a: Volume of credits delivered	Student Interests, Access and Success
2b: Volume of credits delivered to learners in the 10% most deprived areas	Student Interests, Access and Success
2c: Volume and Proportion of credits delivered to learners in the 10% most deprived areas	Student Interests, Access and Success
2d: Volume of and proportion of credits delivered to learners that are care-experienced	Student Interests, Access and Success
3a: COWA – Total Scottish-domiciled entrants to higher education courses	Student Interests, Access and Success
3b: COWA – Number and proportion of Scottish-domiciled entrants to higher education from the 20% most deprived areas	Student Interests, Access and Success
4a: COWA – Total Scottish-domiciled qualifiers in higher education courses	Student Interests, Access and Success
4b: COWA – Number and proportion of Scottish-domiciled qualifiers in higher education courses from the 20% most deprived areas	Student Interests, Access and Success

5a: Number and proportion of enrolled students successfully achieving a recognised qualification (Full-time Further Education)	Student Interests, Access and Success
5b: Number and Proportion of enrolled students successfully achieving a recognised qualification (Full-time Higher Education)	Student Interests, Access and Success
5c: Number and Proportion of enrolled students successfully achieving a recognised qualification (Part-time Further Education)	Student Interests, Access and Success
5d: Number and Proportion of enrolled students successfully achieving a recognised qualification (Part-time Higher Education)	Student Interests, Access and Success
6: Proportion of sector leavers in positive destinations	Skills and Work-based Learning
7: SSES – Proportion of positive responses to the question ‘Overall, I am satisfied with my course’	Student Interests, Access and Success