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The A.C.T. Rubric:

Developing Quality Canvas Shells

Project Description

This project introduces the **A.C.T. Rubric**, which establishes a shared quality standard for Canvas course shells at Tallahassee State College, applicable to **all modalities**. A.C.T Courses are:

- **A**ligned with clearly stated learning outcomes
- **C**onnected through meaningful academic interaction
- **T**ransparent in navigation, expectations, and pathways to success

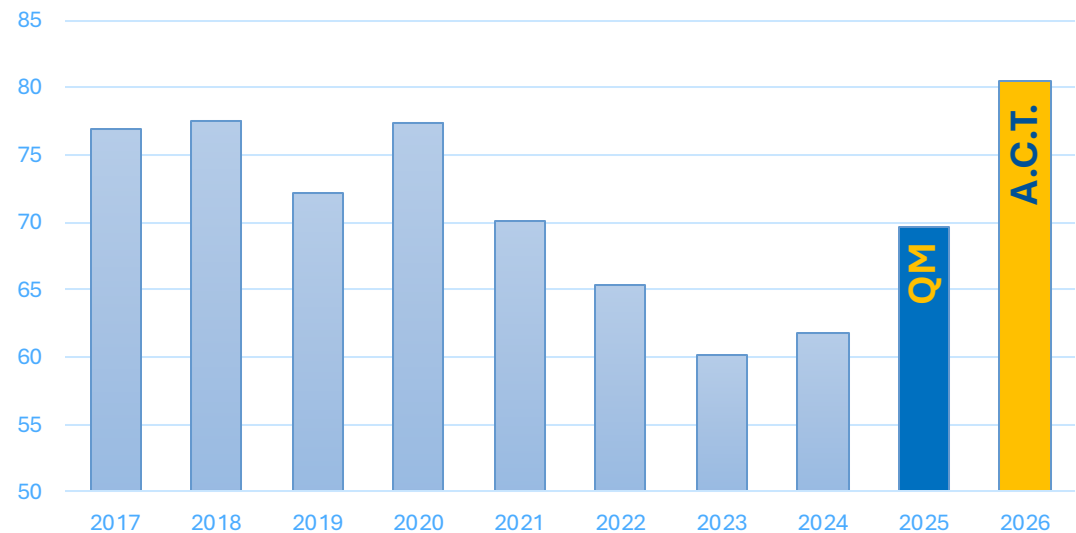
Rationale

- Research shows that **intentional course design** improves student engagement, learning, and retention*
- Many existing course quality rubrics **are limited** to specific modalities.
- The **A.C.T. Rubric is discipline -** and modality-independent, integrating:
 - Florida and TSC initiatives (P2P, OER, QM)
 - Federal RSI requirements
 - ADA Title II accessibility
 - Into a single, structured design framework

* (Jaggars & Xu (2013) — Community College Research Center; Levinsson et al. (2024) — Higher Education)

Capstone Results (Course Pilot)

Success Data for AST1002 Express
(2017-2026)



Key Outcomes

- Success rate **increased**: +13%
- Class average **increased**: +7.5%
- Retention rate **improved**: +150%
- Engagement **increased**: +117%
- Participation **increased**: +67%

Semester	Framework	Build Time	Avg. Weekly Page Views	Avg. Weekly Participations	Class Average
Fall 2025	QM	40 hrs.	35	3	69.7%
Spring 2026	A.C.T.	30 hrs.	76	5	79.9%

Recommendations and Outlook

Recommendation:

Encourage faculty to redesign courses using A.C.T. quality standards to improve student success, engagement, and retention across the college

Timeline:

Spring 2026

Introduce the A.C.T. Rubric and publish a Canvas Commons course template

Fall 2026

Pilot A.C.T. with a small, cross-disciplinary cohort across modalities

Spring 2027

Analyze cohort data, revise rubric, and collaborate with TSC Online for training

Fall 2027

Offer college-wide professional development in partnership with TLA

“Design is not what it looks like. Design is how it works.”

— Steve Jobs

The logo for TSC (Tarrant County Community College) is located in the bottom right corner. It consists of the letters "TSC" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, set against a blue rectangular background. To the left of the blue rectangle is a vertical yellow bar.