

Texas A&M University -Corpus Christi

Average Credits Attempted and Mean Semesters toward Baccalaureate Degree in Program Areas*

<u>Degree Program</u>	<u># of Grads</u>	<u>Credits Attempted</u>	<u>Mean Semesters</u>
Science and Math	138	155	10
Arts and Architecture	198	156	11
Business	173	151	10
Health	55	156	11
Social Sciences and Service	202	149	10
Technology	5	175	13
Total Graduates	771		
Institutional Average		157	11

*Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

The legislation requires information on efforts implemented to help students graduate more quickly:

1. To ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner.

Advising first-year undergraduate students begins at orientation. Orientation is required for students with less than 30 semester hours. Students are informed about what courses they will be taking and why, followed by learning specifics from the college of their intended major, and lastly meeting with professional advisors or faculty in their degree area. First-year students are placed in learning communities designed to connect the curriculum based upon core requirements toward the students intended major.

Academic Advisors in each of the Colleges visit with students concerning course selection and degree requirements.

The Academic Advising Transition Center (AATC) was designed in January 2005 to assist all undergraduate students with questions pertaining to their transition to college especially undeclared students and prospective transfer students. AATC works with several community colleges on transfer plans and articulation agreements.

AATC and the Tutoring and Learning Center receive information from the College Student Inventory tool concerning students' perceived needs and reaches out via e-mail communication to those students offering advice, information, and a means of contact throughout the students first semester.

Success Through Academic Responsibility (STAR) workshops are free sessions provided to the campus community offering students learning and study skills for college

success. Presentations are provided by various departments from the campus community throughout the semester.

Should developmental writing be required, ENGL0399, it is taken simultaneously with ENGL1301 in order to progress students toward their academic program.

2. To ensure that undergraduate students do not attempt an excessive number of semester credit hours beyond the minimum number required to complete the students' degree programs.

Academic Advisors in each of the Colleges visit with students to review their degree plans & assist in the selection of courses for the upcoming semester.

3. To provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation.

Throughout the students academic career they are encouraged to visit their academic advisor for degree plan and graduation requirements, specifically meeting with the academic advisors the semester prior to graduation.

4. To develop an online student degree progress report which compares the courses taken and credit received by a student to the courses completed and needed for degree and graduation requirements for each academic term.

Degree Navigator (DN) by Decision Academic is a web-based online degree audit system that is utilized on our campus by the academic advisors in the College of Business, College of Education, College of Liberal Arts, College of Nursing and Health Science, and College of Science and Technology as well as key personnel in the Office of Admissions and Records, Athletics, Academic Advising Transition Center, and Veterans Affairs.

Currently Degree Navigator contains electronic versions of all undergraduate degree plans and minors offered at our institution from degree catalog year 1999 to 2006. We also offer an electronic plan for University requirements and access to an unofficial student transcript. The electronic degree plan layout may be viewed in two different formats: report style or graphically via "islands". Degree Navigator uses student data and coursework contained in SIS+ and audits it against an electronic degree plan, according to the student's catalog year, to monitor a student's progress towards completion of their degree requirements. Academic advisors have the capability to make exceptions to a student's degree plan and document their advising sessions with the student. Complex exceptions to degree plans and exceptions to University Requirements are completed by the System Support Specialist II who is the coordinator of the degree navigator system in the Office of Admissions and Records. All five Colleges use Degree Navigator to audit student degree plans for graduation clearance. The College of Nursing and Health Science and College of Education use the DN audit as the official degree plan at graduation clearance. Any exceptions to degree plans are documented by the advisors and the appropriate paperwork is submitted to the Office of Admissions and Records at graduation clearance.

In the upcoming months we are working to interface Degree Navigator with our new SCT Banner system. We are also working on making Degree Navigator available to currently enrolled students so that they may run their own audit, view an unofficial transcript, view institutional course information, and explore academic options by performing a "What if" audit.

5. Implementing tuition policies that encourage timely graduation

Beginning in Fall 2004, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi instituted flat rate designated tuition for students enrolled for 12 hours or more. This decision was designed to provide a financial incentive for students to take increased course loads, with the goal of shortening the time to graduation. There has been insufficient time to assess the impact on graduation, but results from the first two years after implementation have been encouraging. The percentage of undergraduate students enrolling in 15 hours or more has increased from 27.0% in Fall 2003 to 31.2% in Fall 2005.

Within the last two weeks, the University has created an additional incentive program designed to improve retention and timely graduation. Briefly, the University will provide a \$500 scholarship in the second fall of enrollment to students who complete at least 30 hours in their first year with a GPA of 2.5 or higher. This program will be implemented with the incoming freshman class in Fall 2008, and we will have our first measure of how successful it will be in Fall 2009.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Timely Graduation Report
November 30, 2006

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