

**University of Houston-Victoria Compliance Report – H.B. No. 1172
November 2008**

This report is offered in compliance with the provisions of H.B. 1172, “Relating to policies and measures to promote timely graduation of students from public institutions of higher education.”

FY 2007 - Average Credits Attempted and Mean Semesters Toward Baccalaureate Degree by Program Areas			
Program	# Graduates	Credits Attempted	Mean Semesters
Science and Math	35	161	11.7
Arts & Architecture	79	154	11.2
Business	33	139	10.1
Health	1	152	14
Social Sciences and Services	17	153	10.7
Total Graduates	165		
Institutional Average		152	11.7

- Efforts implemented to ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner.

UHV has a high retention rate (average 80%) and graduation rate (average 74%) largely because it is an upper-level institution that admits only students of proven academic ability. As indicated below, the university emphasizes the tuition rebate program. It also keeps a careful watch on hours attempted and accumulated, as well as grade-point average, in approving students for financial aid.

- Efforts implemented 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.

Information and application forms regarding the tuition rebate program are made available—both online and in print—to students of UH-Victoria, with the majority of the information being within the university catalog (online) and the Admissions and Records section of the UHV website. As an upper-level institution, we do not have the task of advising first-time freshmen about the tuition rebate program, which means our emphasis is on reminding students to apply for the rebate program at the time of graduation. This is done primarily by including the application form with the Bachelor's graduation application packet of forms. However, every opportunity is used to mention the tuition rebate to visiting

prospective transfer students, including those that may be entering college for the first time. UHV has seen an increase in the number of students that accumulate credits in excess of the funding limits due to the three-peat rule, 6W rule, and 30/45 hours over degree rule. To provide more deterrent to accumulation of excessive credit hours, UHV is considering extra charges to affected students beginning with the fall 2009 semester.

- Efforts to provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation.

The university employs degree-plan counselors and advisors in each academic school whose duty it is to develop with students an efficient degree plan and to go over that plan with the students at given intervals. Also, we use an “early intervention” approach to helping students who are having academic difficulties. The provost sends a letter to each student who has been placed on academic probation, advising them of the university’s interest in their progress and pointing out the academic assistance and services available to the students. Again, UHV has few problems with academic achievement, since students have normally completed their freshman and sophomore years and tend to be older than traditional students. Since most have jobs and study part-time, “timeliness” has to be considered in light of the reduced course load that they carry.

- Efforts 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.

UH-Victoria is currently considering the implementation of PeopleSoft’s Academic Audit module which will provide students and their advisors online access to academic advising plans and degree progress at any time.

- Efforts to implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation.

As noted above, the tuition rebate program and the “three-peat” rule provide some encouragement to timely graduation. Of greater impact is the denial of financial aid to students who have accumulated more than the number of credit hours allowable to earn degrees in their particular programs. Students who have exceeded, or in danger of exceeding, the allowed number of hours must write an appeal if financial aid is to be continued. The chief academic officer and the chief finance officer meet with the financial aid officer to go over each appeal and approve or disapprove it. As also noted above, UHV may begin charging extra to students who exceed the allowed number of hours due to the three-peat rule, 6W rule, and 30/45 hours over degree rule.

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FY 2006 - Average Credits Attempted and Mean Semesters Toward Baccalaureate Degree by Program Areas			
Program	# Graduates	Credits Attempted	Mean Semesters
Science and Math	22	164	12
Arts & Architecture	87	157	11
Business	31	149	12
Social Sciences and Services	28	150	11
Total Graduates	168		
Institutional Average		155	11

- Efforts implemented to ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner.

UHV has a high retention and graduation rate, averaging 75-80%, largely because it is an upper-level institution that admits only students of proven academic ability. As indicated below, the university emphasizes the tuition rebate program. It also keeps a careful watch on hours attempted and accumulated, as well as grade-point average, in approving students for financial aid.

- Efforts implemented 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.

Information and application forms regarding the tuition rebate program are made available—both online and in print—to students of UH-Victoria, with the majority of the information being within the university catalog (online) and the Admissions and Records section of the UHV website. As an upper-level institution, we do not have the task of advising first-time freshmen about the tuition rebate program, which means our emphasis is on reminding students to apply for the rebate program at the time of graduation. This is done primarily by including the application form with the Bachelor's graduation application packet of forms. However, every opportunity is used to mention the tuition rebate to visiting prospective transfer students, including those that may be entering college for the first time. The so-called “three-peat” rule, which denies state funding for the

third time a course is taken, may provide some deterrent to accumulation of excessive credit hours. We have only a very small number of students that accumulate credits in excess of the funding limit—about one percent.

- Efforts to provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation.

The university employs degree-plan counselors and advisors in each academic school whose duty it is to develop with students an efficient degree plan and to go over that plan with the students at given intervals. Also, we use an “early intervention” approach to helping students who are having academic difficulties. The provost sends a letter to each student who has been placed on academic probation, advising them of the university’s interest in their progress and pointing out the academic assistance and services available to the students. Again, UHV has few problems with academic achievement, since students have normally completed their freshman and sophomore years and tend to be older than traditional students. Since most have jobs and study part-time, “timeliness” has to be considered in light of the reduced course load that they carry.

- Efforts 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.

The UH System is currently in the process of implementing PeopleSoft’s student information system at UH and UHV. Once that system is in place, students and their advisors will be able to access degree plans and degree progress online at any time.

- Efforts to implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation.

As noted above, the tuition rebate program and the “three-peat” rule provide some encouragement to timely graduation. Of greater impact is the denial of financial aid to students who have accumulated more than the number of credit hours allowable to earn degrees in their particular programs. Students who have exceeded, or in danger of exceeding, the allowed number of hours must write an appeal if financial aid is to be continued. The chief academic officer and the chief finance officer meet with the financial aid officer to go over each appeal and approve or disapprove it.

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FY 2005 - Average Credits Attempted and Mean Semesters Toward Baccalaureate Degree by Program Areas			
<u>Program</u>	<u># Graduates</u>	<u>Credits Attempted</u>	<u>Mean Semesters</u>
Science and Math	28	162	12
Arts & Architecture	89	159	11
Business	40	144	11
Social Sciences and Services	21	147	11
Total Graduates	178		
Institutional Average		155	11

- Efforts implemented to ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner.

UHV has a very high retention and graduation rate, averaging 75-80%, largely because it is an upper-level institution that admits only students of proven academic ability. As indicated below, the university emphasizes the tuition rebate program. It also keeps a careful watch on hours attempted and accumulated, as well as grade-point average, in approving students for financial aid.

- Efforts implemented 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.

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- Efforts to provide academic counseling concerning time graduation.

The university employs degree-plan counselors and advisors in each academic school whose duty it is to develop with students an efficient degree plan and to go over that plan with the students at given intervals. Also, we use an “early intervention” approach to helping students who are having academic difficulties. The provost sends a letter to each student who has been placed on academic probation, advising them of the university’s interest in their progress and pointing out the academic assistance and services available to the students. Again, UHV has few problems with academic achievement, since students have normally completed their freshman and sophomore years and tend to be older than traditional students. Since most have jobs and study part-time, “timeliness” has to be considered in light of the reduced course load that they carry.

- Efforts 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.

The UH System is currently in the process of implementing PeopleSoft’s student information system at UH and UHV. Once that system is in place, students and their advisors will be able to access degree plans and degree progress online at any time.

- Efforts to implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation.

As noted above, the tuition rebate program and the “three-peat” rule provide some encouragement to timely graduation. Of greater impact is the denial of financial aid to students who have accumulated more than the number of credit hours allowable to earn degrees in their particular programs. Students who have exceeded, or in danger of exceeding, the allowed number of hours must write an appeal if financial aid is to be continued. The chief academic officer and the chief finance officer meet with the financial aid officer to go over each appeal and approve or disapprove it.

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This report is offered in compliance with the provisions of H.B. No. 1172, “Relating to policies and measures to promote timely graduation of students from public institutions of higher education.”

Provision I: To ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner.

UHV has a very high retention and graduation rate, averaging 75-80 %, largely because it is an upper-level institution that admits only students of proven academic ability. As indicated below, the university emphasizes the tuition rebate program. It also keeps a careful watch on hours attempted and accumulated, as well as grade-point average, in approving students for financial aid.

Provision II: 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.

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Provision III: To provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation.

The university employs degree-plan counselors in each academic school whose duty it is to develop with students an efficient degree plan and to go over that plan with the students at given intervals. Also, we use an “early intervention” approach to helping students who are having academic difficulties. The provost sends a letter to each student who has been placed on probation, advising them of the university's interest in their progress and pointing out the academic assistance and services available to the students. Again, UHV has few problems with academic achievement, since students have normally completed their freshman and sophomore years and tend to be older than traditional students. Since most have jobs and study part-time, “timeliness” has to be considered in light of the reduced course load that they carry.

Provision IV: 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.

The UH System is currently in the process of implementing PeopleSoft's student-information system at UH and UHV. Once that system is in place, students and their advisors will be able to access degree plans and degree progress online at any time.

Provision V: To implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation.

As noted above, the tuition-rebate program and 3-peat rule provide some encouragement to timely graduation. Of greater impact is the denial of financial aid to students who have accumulated more than the number of credit hours allowable to earn degrees in their particular programs. Students who have exceeded, or are in danger of exceeding, the allowed number must write an appeal if financial aid is to be continued. The chief academic officer and chief finance officer meet with the financial aid officer to go over each appeal and approve or disapprove it.