

October 23, 2008

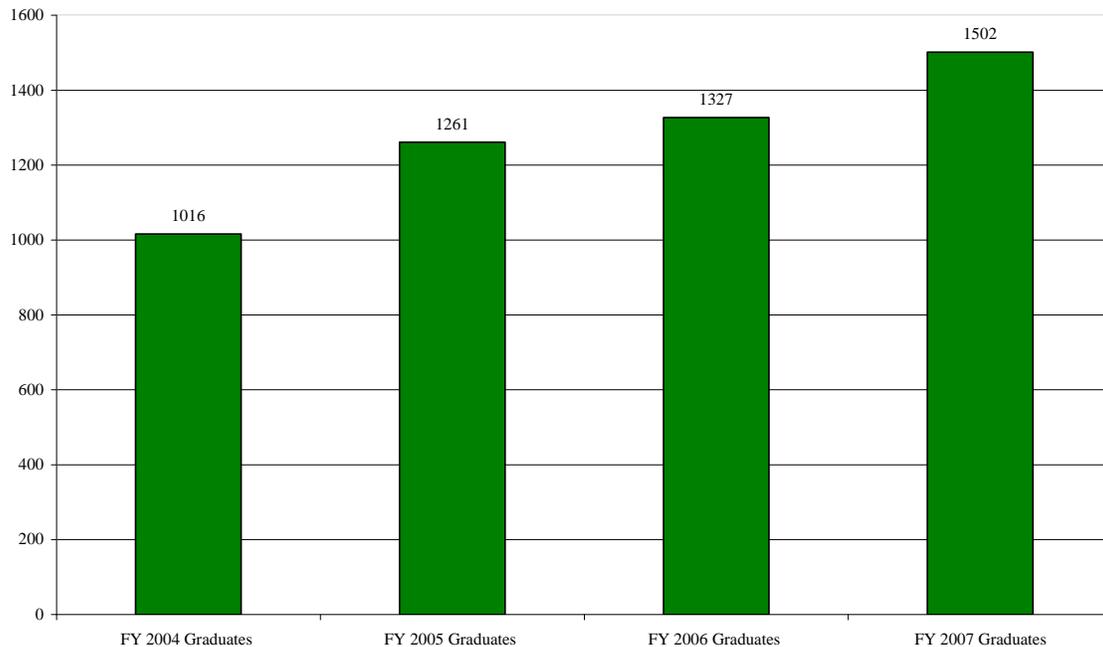
## The University of Texas at Dallas

### Timely Graduation Report

The purpose of this report is to respond to the requirements of H.B. 1172. In the paragraphs below the university discusses its efforts to insure that students move efficiently and effectively toward graduation.

The Chart and Table below provide a 4 year comparison of graduation data (FY 04-07) as reported by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Comparing the number of graduates in 2004 to the number in 2007 it can be seen that the number of students graduated increased by 48% overall. The data for all years indicate that overall the university's graduates in key fields' average about ten semesters to graduation. For the current year, the institutional average was 9.95 semesters. For 2004-2005 the data indicate that the institution's average semester credit hours were 143 semester credit hours; for 2006 and 2007 years the average was 142 semester credit hours attempted.

**Number of Graduates FY 2004 - FY 2007**  
**Increase in Graduates 2004-2007 = 48%**



<b>FY 2004 Graduates N = 1016</b>	<b># Graduates</b>	<b>Credits Attempted</b>	<b>Mean Semesters</b>
Science and Math	228	146	10
Arts and Architecture	166	144	10
Business	359	143	10
Engineering	74	148	10
Health	17	132	10
Social Sciences and Service	172	138	10
<b>FY 2005 Graduates N = 1261</b>	<b># Graduates</b>	<b>Credits Attempted</b>	<b>Mean Semesters</b>
Science and Math	234	144	10
Arts and Architecture	266	145	11
Business	413	144	10
Engineering	95	149	10
Health	29	125	9
Social Sciences and Service	224	140	10
<b>FY 2006 Graduates N = 1327</b>	<b># Graduates</b>	<b>Credits Attempted</b>	<b>Mean Semesters</b>
Science and Math	221	145	10
Arts and Architecture	281	140	10
Business	418	141	10
Engineering	90	153	10
Health	21	137	9
Social Sciences and Service	296	139	10
<b>FY 2007 Graduates N= 1502</b>	<b># Graduates</b>	<b>Credits Attempted</b>	<b>Mean Semesters</b>
Science and Math	239	141	9.6
Arts and Architecture	303	140	10.2
Business	505	144	10.1
Engineering	114	146	10.2
Health	30	139	9.9
Social Sciences and Service	311	138	9.8
% Increase in graduates 04-07	48%		

Analysis of the graduates in these key fields shows the influence of two factors. First the menu of majors at the university is weighted in the sciences, engineering and the more quantitative management degrees. Programs in electrical engineering, computer science, biology and biochemistry, for example, require over 120 semester credit hours. Secondly, the data show the effects of transfer students and transfer hours. For UTD in the near term, this pattern should continue, but tighter coordination between local area community colleges and the university will likely reduce the gap in hours and semesters between FTIC freshmen and transfers. The university has signed matriculation agreements locking in a 4-year guaranteed tuition rate for community college students that should significantly aid in the reduction of time-to-degree for transfer students.

The new tuition plan provides incentives for full-time status defined as 15 semester credit hours per long semester. Indeed, for in-state students all credit hours above 15 are essentially free, thus encouraging students to sustain full time status beyond their sophomore year. Preliminary data indicates that the guaranteed rate, plus the incentive to

take additional hours, will reduce the number of students who, in their junior and senior years, chose to go to school part-time thereby prolonging their time-to-degree.

Other influencing variables must be noted. Measuring attempted hours introduces a confounding bias into the data. Students can and do repeat coursework before coming to the university—a situation that is beyond the university’s control. Moreover, students who wish to progress on to graduate, professional and medical schools need to achieve high GPAs and thus have an incentive to repeat coursework. Finally, our data strongly show that multiple changes of major and major changes late in a student’s career significantly effect the number of attempted hours.

In an effort to prevent undergraduate students from attempting an excessive number of semester credit hours, the university requires advisor review and permission to enroll in excess of 18 hours in any semester. Furthermore, the university requires a 75 hour audit of student progress with an advisor. The university provides degree advisor services across all majors and is especially sensitive to the time-to-graduation issues that are exacerbated by multiple major changes—especially after the sophomore year. We have an online degree audit (On Course) which the advisor can use to audit the student’s remaining degree requirements. The student can also run this audit at any time as well as engage in ‘what if’ scenarios to determine the impact of changing majors.

The university has significantly reorganized the admissions process for transfer students and initiated the Comet Connection – whereby community college students are more tightly coupled to UTD.<sup>1</sup> The Comet Connection enables transfer students to begin their higher education at a community college while at the same time enjoying many of the benefits and experiences of campus life at UTD. By becoming a member of the Comet Connection, students may enroll in UTD’s Guaranteed Tuition Program and establish the current year’s tuition at UTD for four years. In addition to invitations to exclusive Comet Connection events, participants also receive other special privileges that include one-on-one access to academic advisors on UTD campus.

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<sup>1</sup> See, <http://www.utdallas.edu/connect/>.

December 15, 2005

The University of Texas at Dallas

Timely Graduation Report

The purpose of this report is to respond to the requirements of H.B. 1171. In the paragraphs below the university briefly describes the efforts in place to insure that its students more efficiently and effectively toward graduation.

Data for 1,016 graduates (see below) compiled by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board show that the university's graduates in key fields average ten semesters and averaged 143 semester credit hours. For example, Electrical Engineering graduates averaged 148 semester credit hours for a degree program that required in 2004, 128 semester credit hours. Analysis reveals, however, that the freshmen who graduated in engineering in spring 2004 matriculated with transfer hours and graduated with an average of 19 transfer hours and those who graduated in spring 2003 had over 13 transfer hours. Similar results can be found for majors in Bio-Chemistry, Chemistry and other sciences.

For hours taken at the university by graduates who started at UTD as freshmen, the spring 2004 graduates averaged 130 semester credit hours (n = 223) and the spring 2003 graduates (n = 114) averaged 125 semester credit hours.

Program	# Grads	Credits Attempted	Mean Semesters
Science and Math	228	146	10
Arts and Architecture	166	144	10
Business	359	143	10
Engineering	74	148	10
Health	17	132	10
Social Sciences and Service	172	138	10

To ensure that undergraduate students do not attempt an excessive number of semester credit hours, the university requires advisor review and permission to enroll in excess of 18 hours in any semester. Furthermore, the university requires a 75 hour audit of student progress with an advisor. The university provides degree adviser services across all majors and is especially sensitive to the time-to-graduation issues that are exacerbated by multiple major changes—especially after the sophomore year.

We have an online degree audit (On Course) which the advisor can use to audit the student's remaining degree requirements. The student can also run this audit at any time as well as engage in 'what if' scenarios to determine the impact of changing majors. For community college students, the university provides

comprehensive articulation guides for transfer students so they can plan their community college careers to maximize their transfer credits.

The university tuition committee composed of students, staff, faculty and others was very sensitive in crafting a tuition proposal that meets both students' needs for a high quality education and needs to graduate in a timely fashion. The university's new tuition proposal provides a flat rate for 2006-07 to encourage students to take more classes and a 4-year tuition lock-in for 2007-08 to encourage finishing in four years.