

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

**REPORT ON TIMELY GRADUATION
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN**

November 26, 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

Report on Timely Graduation November, 2008

This report has been prepared in compliance with Section 1, H.B. 1172 of the Texas Education Code. It provides data on undergraduates completing bachelor degree programs at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and information on UT Permian Basin efforts to promote timely graduations. The format for this report, including the major topics for discussion, follows the format recommended by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The statistical data in this report was prepared by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board specifically for this report. Three data elements were provided for every public university in the state for eight program areas:

Number of Graduates: This is the number of students receiving a first bachelor's degree from the institution in the program area. All graduates are included in this database. No attempt was made to separate out full-time from part-time students as is done in some other commonly used graduation rate metrics.

Mean Credits Attempted: This is the average number of student credit hours for which a student was enrolled on the census day from the first day of enrollment to the date of graduation. This number includes courses passed, courses failed, and courses the student might have dropped before completion. A course that a student repeats is counted each time the student is enrolled in the class. Courses included in this number are for all semesters, fall, spring, and summer.

Mean Semesters: This element is the average number of semesters that baccalaureate students enrolled in classes from the first semester enrolled to the semester of graduation. This number is for fall and spring semesters only. Summer terms are not included.

This is the fourth Report on Timely Graduation prepared by the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. The first three were submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in November of 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

Comparing the data in the four reports, one finds a steady increase in the number of UT Permian Basin graduates from 221 in 2005 to 303 in 2008. This is a 38% increase in graduates over the four years. The institutional average credits attempted have dropped during the same period from 151 to 148. There also has been a decrease in the average credits attempted in each of the four program areas reported for UT Permian Basin.

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The one item that has remained little changed over the four years of reports is the means semesters taken by graduates. This number has remained steady at 11 semesters over the four years.

Data on Undergraduate Completion

Table One provides a summary of the time-to-degree information for UT Permian Basin.

Table One
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Time-to-Degree

<u>Institution Name</u>	<u>FICE</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u>Credits Attempted</u>	<u>Mean Semesters</u>
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Science and Math	40	146	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Arts and Architecture	74	147	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Business	64	150	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Social Sciences and Service	125	149	11
Total Graduates			303		
Institutional Average				148	11

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, October, 2008

For the University to have fewer credit hours attempted than average while its graduates take as long to graduate as in the past would seem to indicate that UTPB students are taking fewer credit hours per semester. This may be an indication of the relative number of part-time students at UTPB compared to state averages and the outside of class commitments its students have. Results from the National Survey of Student Engagement, Noel-Levitz Student Survey, and other surveys conducted by the University in the past have indicated that UTPB students tend to be employed more hours per week than comparative peer institutions. These surveys also indicate that UTPB students tend to have more family obligations than students in the national comparative groups. To assist these students to a more timely graduation, UT Permian Basin is working to enhance financial aid and student counseling/assistance services.

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Efforts to Help Students Graduate More Quickly

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin is implementing its current Enrollment Management Plan and developing new goals and strategies for the future. A major initiative during the 2007-2008 Academic Year was the implementation of the 2007 Retention Action Plan. This research based initiative includes numerous steps designed to improve the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate. Improving the number of students who continue into their sophomore year should result in a higher number graduating in a timely fashion. Retention Action Plan activities have been grouped into six initiative areas:

- Identification of students who have a higher than average probability of not continuing to their sophomore year in the development of required interventions starting the first weeks the student is on campus;
- Monitoring of freshman absences and University follow-up on students who have missed multiple class sessions;
- Development of ways to increase programming in the student housing area;
- Enhancement of student life activities on weekends and continue development of a campus community;
- Review of current admission standards focused on identifications of predictors of student success; and
- Development of the “early alert” communications system to improve communications between instructors, advisors, and student services regarding student behaviors that may lead to dropping out of school.

UT Permian Basin has addressed the number of credits students must take to complete a degree through a review of degree programs requiring greater than 120 credits. The University Curriculum Committee and the Provost’s Office oversaw a process through which all programs requiring over 120 credits had either reduced the number of credits required for the degree, or presented a written justification approved by the Committee, the Faculty Senate, and the Provost for any requirements in excess of 120 credits. The University started this review with eight of its thirty-two undergraduate majors requiring over 120 credits. Six programs have reduced the credits required for graduation to 120 through the review leaving only two of thirty-two programs requiring over 120 credits. These are the B.A. in Multidisciplinary Studies which requires 121 credits and the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Art that requires 127 credits. There is a B.A. degree in Art that requires only 120 credits.

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Integral parts of UT Permian Basin's continuing graduation rate initiatives are these efforts explicitly target getting students to graduate in a timely manner. These efforts include:

1. Financial Aid Incentives and Programs
2. Informational Programs
3. Improved Academic Advising
4. Enhanced Student Success Services
5. Course Redesign Pilot

Financial Aid Incentives. In addition to the state tuition rebated for graduating without excess credit hours, UT Permian Basin has created its "Graduate on Time" program. Under this program any student who completes thirty semester credit hours in a calendar year (fall through summer) earns a \$400.00 tuition credit that can be used in their senior year. The thirty credits must fulfill degree requirements. Credits that repeat courses already taken do not count for the program.

The Graduate on Time program is designed to provide students with a financial incentive to progress toward graduation in a timely manner. It is also designed to provide an incentive and the means to complete the senior year. Historically, many UT Permian Basin students "stop out" from college, stop taking courses in order to earn funds to pay for college. This has led to many instances where students reach their senior year, but then may take several years to complete the degree. The Graduate on Time program will provide extra funding for the senior year to encourage students not to stop out.

UT Permian Basin's scholarship programs also encourage timely graduation. The Presidential, Presidential Plus, and Freshman Merit Scholarships are awarded to entering freshman students. Each of these scholarships are renewable past the freshman year contingent on the recipient making a grade point average of 3.00 or higher while completing a yearly progress toward a degree.

Informational Programs. Every opportunity is taken to inform students of the incentives for timely graduation and the consequences of taking an excessive number of credits per semester. The state tuition rebate for timely graduation, UTPB's Graduate on Time incentive, and regulations on excess hours are printed in the University's Catalog and on its website. The freshman and transfer orientation programs include sessions where these incentives and regulations are discussed with incoming students and their parents.

Every new freshman is required to enroll and attend the freshman seminar. During the seminar, degree planning is covered extensively. Students are required to have a degree

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plan developed as a requirement, and registration for the spring semester is done as well. All of these activities in the freshman seminar include emphasis on both the incentives for timely graduation, and regulations on excessive credits.

Academic Advising. UT Permian Basin uses a mixed mode for providing academic advising to students. The colleges and schools have advising staff and faculty members perform advising, particularly in areas of course selection for particular career options within a major. To ensure that both faculty and staff advisors promote graduation incentives and advise students to make timely progress toward graduation, the incentives, student success measures, and excess credits regulations have been covered in the annual advisors' workshops. Every major has a four-year suggested course of study for students. The President, Provost, and Deans have stressed to all faculty in meetings, the importance of encouraging students to make timely progress to graduation.

As mentioned above, freshman seminars are being used to advise new students of the importance of planning their academic careers with timely graduation as a goal. Generally during the fall semester, professional advisors work with the freshman seminar coordinator and instructors along with discipline faculty members to develop a degree plan for every freshman seminar student. They help to register students for the semester following the freshman seminar; which is usually the spring semester. In all of these activities the advising staff encourages students to move to timely graduation and informs students of the incentives and regulations on timely graduation.

Approximately forty percent of the incoming undergraduates to UTPB enter as transfer students, most of which are from area community colleges. To help these students move to timely graduation, UTPB has developed its Direct Connect program with area colleges. This program has a student at an area community college declare intention to transfer to UTPB. The student is then provided academic advising, financial aid advising, and other assistance while still enrolled at the community college. Under this program, academic advising staff members have weekly office hours on the campuses of Odessa College and Midland College. They also visit the campuses of New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, N.M. and Western Texas College, Snyder, Texas each semester. With funding from a joint UTPB-Howard College Hispanic Serving Institution Grant, UTPB and Howard College in Big Spring have a joint academic counselor who splits her time and duties between the two campuses.

The commitment that UTPB has made to the community colleges in the Direct Connect program is that its advisors work with the community college staff will help students prepare a degree plan through which they will earn an associate degree from the community college and a UTPB bachelor's degree in the most efficient manner possible. Because of earlier articulation agreements, the THECB transfer fields of study, and other less formal efforts to align the UTPB and community college curriculum, students in the direct connect program typically are not required to take extra hours to earn both the associate and the bachelor's degree. The development of the degree plan includes discussion of the incentives and the regulations related to timely graduation.

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Enhanced Student Success Services. Students completing courses successfully without the need to repeat due to failure, ultimately helps students graduate in a timely fashion. UT Permian Basin has a long history of providing assistance for student success. These efforts have been expanded with the Graduation Rate Improvement Initiative. In the last year the following have been added:

Supplemental Instruction. Supplemental Instruction, which provides tutors and help session instructors for students in courses with high withdrawal and failure rates, has been expanded. This includes providing supplemental instruction for courses that are not in the University core requirements, but are gateway courses in particular majors.

Literacy Center. A Literacy Center was opened in 2006 through funding from the Hispanic Serving Institution Grant. This center provides study skills training for students.

Math and Science Center. The Math and Science Center's facilities have been expanded reducing crowding. The center provides tutors and computer assisted tutorials for students in math and science courses.

Freshman Interest Groups. Freshman Interest Groups were started in fall 2006. This program groups students with similar career or educational goals into freshman seminars that include career exploration and cohort building along with the regular freshman seminar program.

Mentoring Program. The Mentoring Program for students identified as at risk has been expanded.

UT Permian Basin's Transfer Initiative

During the 2008-2009 Academic Year, UT Permian Basin has initiated a major new transfer initiative. This effort is targeted to increase transfers to UTPB from Texas community colleges and reduce the time to graduation by transfer students. Major elements of the plan include:

- Development of Seamless Student Transfer (SST) Agreements with twelve Texas Community Colleges and Community College Districts in addition to the Direct Connect Colleges. The agreements detail articulation of courses from the SST schools to UT Permian Basin.
- Creation of a Transfer Admissions Officer position, to increase contact with potential community college students and help them with the transfer process.
- Creation of a Transfer Academic Advisor position, with grant funding, to work with the advising offices of area community colleges and with potential transfer students to help students develop their degree plans to an associate degree and a UTPB bachelor's degree.

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- Increasing the number of transfer student scholarships.

Efforts to Ensure That Undergraduates Do Not Attempt an Excessive Number of Semester Credit Hours Beyond the Minimum Number Required to Complete the Student's Degree Program

As discussed above, the University is working to ensure undergraduates do not attempt excess credit hours through informational efforts in the Catalog, freshman and transfer orientation programs, and freshman seminars. Additionally, the incentives and excess credit rules are printed on the back of registration cards used when students register on campus. Faculty advisors are also encouraged to keep the incentives and regulations before the students they advise.

University policy is that students who exceed the statutory excess hour regulations are charged the tuition of a non-resident. Exceptions are only those provided by statute.

UTPB's Registrar's Office sends a notice to students who are nearing the maximum number of credits under statute. This notice informs students of the rules, and tells them they may be charged the equivalent of out-of-state tuition should they exceed the limit. It also tells them they need to go to the Academic Advising Office for a degree check, and to map out the quickest route for degree completion.

UT Permian Basin has also aggressively implemented the provisions of HB 1231. Passed by the last Legislature, this statute limits the number of courses a student can drop to three. UT Permian Basin developed procedures and policies for implementing the three drop limit during the summer of 2007. Orientations on the new rules and procedures were held for all faculty, advisors, and staff who work with student advising or drops. Students were informed of the new regulation in the early sessions of the Fall 2007 Freshman Seminar and through an article in the campus newspaper, Mesa Journal. The three drop rule is being fully enforced, which should result in some reduction in the credit hours students take before graduation.

Efforts to Provide Academic Counseling Concerning Timely Graduation

Most of the efforts to provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation have already been described in this report. Faculty advisors and staff of the academic advising offices are trained to help students work toward a timely graduation. The advising efforts have been expanded in the freshman seminars, freshman and transfer orientations, and the Direct Connect community college transfer program.

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Efforts to Develop an Online Student Degree Progress Report

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin has created a website to report on student time-to-graduation. The website's URL is www.utpb.edu/timetograd/. It contains the statistics that appear in this report, and links to descriptions of the Graduate-on-Time program and other services and programs.

The University has implemented a degree audit system. The system enables students to quickly find which earned degree credits meet degree requirements for various degrees. The system has been installed and the data for all currently enrolled students has also been entered into the system. It is now being "beta tested" with key advisors and faculty training sessions in the design stage.

Efforts to Implement Tuition Policies That Encourage Timely Graduation.

UT Permian Basin's major tuition policy encouraging timely graduation is the Graduate-on-Time tuition credit program. The University charges students who exceed the regulatory limits for publicly funded credits for graduation the equivalent of non-resident tuition.

Attachment 1

Time-to-Degree Methodology

Section 1 of HB 1172 requires that information regarding undergraduate graduation rates shall be provided to the governing board of each Texas public higher education institution. Subsection b (1) directs that:

b) The report must: (1) state, for each undergraduate degree program, the average number of semester credit hours attempted and the average number of fall and spring semesters attended by a student completing the program.

Towards this end, the Higher Education Coordinating Board (CB) has produced undergraduate graduation information for FY 2007.

Methodology

Every student who earned a baccalaureate degree at a public general academic institution in FY 2007 was traced back for ten years (FY 1998-FY 2007) to find when he/she was reported as a first-time student. Only those with a first-time indicator were included in the analysis. For each of these students, the number of semester credit hours attempted was recorded (fall, spring and summer semesters), as well as the number of fall and spring semesters attended. The graduates were classified into broad fields based on the CIP Codes of their majors. The number of graduates by field, the average number of undergraduate credit hours attempted, and the average number of fall and spring semesters attended were calculated for each institution's graduates. The statewide results are shown below. (Table 1).

Table 1
Time-to-Degree in Eight Program Categories for
All Texas Public General Academic Institutions

General Program Areas	CIP Codes	Number of Graduates	Mean Semesters ¹	Mean Credits Attempted ²
Science & Math	03,11,26,27,40	5,368	9.95	147.93
Agriculture	1	1,566	9.93	147.50
Business	52	10,983	10.03	144.53
Engineering	14	2,877	10.22	149.43
Health	51	2,148	10.41	151.71
Liberal & Fine Arts and Architecture	04,05,09,10,16,22,23,24,25,29,30,38,50	14,642	10.31	148.42
Social Sciences and Service	12,19,31,42,43,44,45,54	12,572	10.01	146.00
Technology	15,41,46,47,48,49	700	11.23	167.22
Grand Mean		50,856	10.14	147.36

¹ Fall and spring semesters only.

² Semester credit hours attempted during fall, spring and summer semesters.

Students who transferred into Texas public institutions from elsewhere and students who had received a baccalaureate in Texas public higher education institutions in the nine years prior to FY2007 were excluded from the analysis. Additionally, credits obtained by flexible entry students and credits obtained prior to matriculation were excluded.

Statewide, 50,856 baccalaureate graduates were found who met the above criteria, compared with 73,088 individual baccalaureate graduates (69.6%). They had averages of 147.36 credits attempted (including developmental education and for credit) and 10.14 fall and spring semesters attended.

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Attachment 2

H.B. No. 1172

AN ACT

Relating to policies and measures to promote timely graduation of students from public institutions of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.4032 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.4032. REPORT OF EFFORTS CONCERNING TIMELY GRADUATION. (a) Not later than November 1 of each year, the president of each general academic teaching institution, as defined by Section 61.003, shall provide to the governing board of the institution a report for the preceding academic year that examines the institution 's efforts concerning timely graduation of its undergraduate students.

(b) The report must:

(1) state, for each undergraduate degree program, the average number of semester credit hours attempted and the average number of fall and spring semesters attended by a student completing the program;

(2) state the specific efforts implemented by the institution to ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner and do not attempt an excessive number of semester credit hours beyond the minimum number required to complete the students ' degree programs, including the institution 's efforts to provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation, including the development of 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, and to implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation; and

(3) include any other information required by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(c) An institution's report must be in the form prescribed by coordinating board rule adopted in consultation with general academic teaching institutions.

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Mean Semesters: This element is the average number of semesters that baccalaureate students enrolled in classes from the first semester enrolled to the semester of graduation. This number is for fall and spring semesters only. Summer terms are not included.

This is the third Report on Timely Graduation prepared by the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. The first two were submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in November of 2005 and 2006 respectively. Comparing the data in the three reports, one finds that the number of credit hours attempted and mean semesters for completion declined in both the statewide sample and for UTPB. UTPB's average was slightly above the state average. UTPB's mean semesters to completion remains roughly one semester above the statewide average. UTPB's mean total credits at graduation graduate is lower than the state average in three of the four disciplines for which data is reported for UTPB.

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Comparing UTPB results by discipline finds improvement in two areas. The business graduates average credit hours at graduation decreased by six credits from 160 to 154. UTPB's business credits at graduation went from some of the highest in the state to slightly below the state's median. In the social sciences, UTPB graduates' credits at graduation declined by three credits, from 150 to 147. This is again below the median for the state. Credits at graduation in Art and Architecture were stable when compared to last year, and is below the state median.

The one area where UTPB showed increase of credits at graduation is in science and mathematics. Here credits went up by five, from 151 to 156. 156 is at the median for the state.

While the total figure of semester credits at graduation declined by one credit over the year, the mean number of semesters a student took to graduate has stayed at 11, one semester above the state average.

Data on Undergraduate Completion

Table One provides a summary of the time-to-degree information for UT Permian Basin.

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The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Time-to-Degree

<u>Institution Name</u>	<u>FICE</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u>Credits Attempted</u>	<u>Mean Semesters</u>
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U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Arts and Architecture	58	152	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Business	50	154	12
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Social Sciences and Service	115	147	11
Total Graduates			258		
Institutional Average				151	11

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, October, 2007

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For the University to have fewer credit hours attempted than average while its graduates are taking longer to graduate would seem to indicate that UTPB students are taking fewer credit hours per semester on average than students at other Texas public universities. This may be an indication of the relative number of part-time students at UTPB compared to state averages and the outside of class commitments its students have. Results from the National Survey of Student Engagement, Noel-Levitz Student Survey, and other surveys conducted by the University in the past have indicated that UTPB students tend to be employed more hours per week than comparative peer institutions. These surveys also indicate that UTPB students tend to have more family obligations than students in the national comparative groups. To assist these students to a more timely graduation, UT Permian Basin is working to enhance financial aid and student counseling/assistance services.

Students taking fewer credits per semester than average may also reflect problems with class scheduling or advising which may lead students to take fewer credits than they can successfully pass in a timely manner. UT Permian Basin has continuously looked for ways to improve its schedules to ensure every student has the courses needed to graduate when the student is ready to take them. It has also developed a number of ways to ensure that academic advising encourages students to graduate in a timely fashion.

Efforts to Help Students Graduate More Quickly

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin is implementing its current Enrollment Management Plan and developing new goals and strategies for the future. A major initiative for the 2007-2008 Academic Year is the implementation of the 2007 Retention Action Plan. This research based initiative includes numerous steps designed to improve the freshman-to-sophomore retention rate. Improving the number of students who continue into their sophomore year should result in a higher number graduating in a timely fashion. Retention Action Plan activities have been grouped into six initiative areas:

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- Review of current admission standards focused on identifications of predictors of student success; and
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Integral parts of UT Permian Basin’s continuing graduation rate initiatives are these efforts explicitly targeting getting students to graduate in a timely manner. These efforts include:

1. Financial Aid Incentives and Programs
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Course Redesign

UT Permian Basin has a long history of the use of technology to enhance learning in classes. In an October, 2006 presentation before the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Carol Twiggs of the National Center for Academic Transformation identified five approaches to redesigning courses to enhance student success and increase efficiency.

- Supplementing an Established Course
- Technology Assisted Classes
- Web-Based Classes
- Emporium Approaches to Courses
- A Buffet Approach to Course Delivery

UT Permian Basin already uses three of these. Its web-based classes are successful teaching techniques for many disciplines and for many student learning styles. These courses have the added advantage of flexibility in scheduling for students. Approximately twelve percent of UT Permian Basin's courses are web-based.

Approximately twenty percent of UTPB's courses are technology assisted classes where web-based assignments or computer lab based exercises extend the learning opportunities for students. These are especially useful in meeting the different learning styles of students.

In the past year, UT Permian Basin has been part of a UT TeleCampus pilot program to use emporium or buffet approaches to redesigning the freshman calculus course. The purpose of the pilot is to demonstrate how these techniques can be used to increase student learning and student success. Student success should lead to improved student progress toward graduation. During the 2006-2007 academic year, new course designs were developed. These designs are being delivered during the 2007-2008 Academic Year.

Efforts to Ensure That Undergraduates Do Not Attempt an Excessive Number of Semester Credit Hours Beyond the Minimum Number Required to Complete the Student's Degree Program

As discussed above, the University is working to ensure undergraduates do not attempt excess credit hours through informational efforts in the Catalog, freshman and transfer orientation programs, and freshman seminars. Additionally, the incentives and excess credit rules are printed on the back of registration cards used when students register on campus. Faculty advisors are also encouraged to keep the incentives and regulations before the students they advise.

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University policy is that students who exceed the statutory excess hour regulations are charged the tuition of a non-resident. Exceptions are only those provided by statute.

UTPB's Registrar's Office sends a notice to students who are nearing the maximum number of credits under statute. This notice informs student of the rules, and tells them they may be charged the equivalent of out-of-state tuition should they exceed the limit. It also tells them they need to go to the Academic Advising Office for a degree check, and to map out the quickest route for degree completion.

UT Permian Basin has also aggressively implemented the provisions of HB 1231. Passed by the last Legislature, this statute limits the number of courses a student can drop to three. UT Permian Basin developed procedures and policies for implementing the three drop limit during the summer of 2007. Orientations on the new rules and procedures were held for all faculty, advisors, and staff that work with student advising or drops. Students were informed of the new regulation in the early sessions of the fall 2007 Freshman Seminar and through an article in the campus newspaper, Mesa Journal. The three drop rule is being fully enforced, which should result in some reduction in the credit hours students take before graduation.

Efforts to Provide Academic Counseling Concerning Timely Graduation

Most of the efforts to provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation have already been described in this report. Faculty advisors and staff of the academic advising offices are trained to help students work toward a timely graduation. The advising efforts have been expanded in the freshman seminars, freshman and transfer orientations, and the Direct Connect community college transfer program.

Efforts to Develop an Online Student Degree Progress Report

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin has created a website to report on student time-to-graduation. The website's URL is www.utpb.edu/timetograd/. It contains the statistics that appear in this report, and links to descriptions of the Graduate-on-Time program and other services and programs.

The University has purchased and is installing a degree audit system. The system will enable students to quickly find which earned degree credits meet degree requirements for various degrees. The system has been installed and the data for all currently enrolled students has also been entered into the system. It is now being "beta tested" with key advisors and faculty training sessions in the design stage.

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Efforts to Implement Tuition Policies That Encourage Timely Graduation.

UT Permian Basin's major tuition policy encouraging timely graduation is the Graduate-on-Time tuition credit program. The University does charge students who exceed the regulatory limits for publicly funded credits for graduation the equivalent of non-resident tuition.

Attachment 1

Time-to-Degree Methodology

Section 1 of HB 1172 requires that information regarding undergraduate graduation rates shall be provided to the governing board of each Texas public higher education institution. Subsection b (1) directs that:

b) The report must: (1) state, for each undergraduate degree program, the average number of semester credit hours attempted and the average number of fall and spring semesters attended by a student completing the program.

Towards this end, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (CB) has produced undergraduate graduation information for FY 2005.

Methodology

Every student who earned a baccalaureate degree at a public general academic institution in FY 2005 was traced back for ten years (FY 1996-FY 2005) to find when he/she was reported as a first-time student. Only those with a first-time indicator were included in the analysis. For each of these students, the number of semester credit hours attempted was recorded (fall, spring and summer semesters), as well as the number of fall and spring semesters attended. The graduates were classified into broad fields based on the CIP Codes of their majors. The number of graduates by field, the average number of undergraduate credit hours attempted, and the average number of fall and spring semesters attended were calculated for each institution's graduates. The statewide results are shown below. (Table 1) This methodology is identical to that used for FY 2004.

Table 1
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All Texas Public General Academic Institutions

General Program Areas	CIP Codes	Number of Graduates	Mean Semesters ¹	Mean Credits Attempted ²
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Grand Mean		46,814	10	148

¹ Fall and spring semesters only.

² Semester credit hours attempted during fall, spring and summer semesters

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Students who transferred into Texas public institutions from elsewhere, in addition to students who had received a baccalaureate in Texas public higher education institutions in the nine years prior to FY2005, were excluded from the analysis. Additionally, credits obtained by flexible entry students, or credits obtained prior to matriculation were excluded.

Statewide, 46,692 baccalaureate graduates were found who met the above criteria, compared with 68,029 total graduates (68.6%). They had an average of 148.5 semester credit hours attempted and 10 fall and spring semesters attended.

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Attachment 2

H.B. No. 1172

AN ACT

Relating to policies and measures to promote timely graduation of students from public institutions of higher education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.4032 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.4032. REPORT OF EFFORTS CONCERNING TIMELY GRADUATION.

(a) Not later than November 1 of each year, the president of each general academic teaching institution, as defined by Section 61.003, shall provide to the governing board of the institution a report for the preceding academic year that examines the institution's efforts concerning timely graduation of its undergraduate students.

(b) The report must:

(1) state, for each undergraduate degree program, the average number of semester credit hours attempted and the average number of fall and spring semesters attended by a student completing the program;

(2) state the specific efforts implemented by the institution to ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner and do not attempt an excessive number of semester credit hours beyond the minimum number required to complete the students' degree programs, including the institution's efforts to provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation, including the development of 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, and to implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation; and

(3) include any other information required by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(c) An institution's report must be in the form prescribed by coordinating board rule adopted in consultation with general academic teaching institutions.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

**REPORT ON TIMELY GRADUATION
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN**

November 7, 2006

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

Report on Timely Graduation November, 2006

This report has been prepared in compliance with Section 1, H.B. 1172 of the Texas Education Code. It provides data on undergraduates completing bachelor degree programs at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and information on UT Permian Basin efforts to promote timely graduations. The format for this report, including the major topics for discussion, follows the format recommended by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The statistical data in this report was prepared by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board specifically for this report. Three data elements were provided for every public university in the state for eight program areas:

Number of Graduates: This is the number of students receiving a first bachelor's degree from the institution in the program area. All graduates are included in this database. No attempt was made to separate out full-time from part-time students as is done in some other commonly used graduation rate metrics.

Mean Credits Attempted: This is the average number of student credit hours for which a student was enrolled on the census day from the first day of enrollment to the date of graduation. This number includes courses passed, courses failed, and courses the student might have dropped before completion. A course that a student repeats is counted each time the student is enrolled in the class. Courses included in this number are for all semesters, fall, spring, and summer.

Mean Semesters: This element is the average number of semesters that baccalaureate students enrolled in classes from the first semester enrolled to the semester of graduation. This number is for fall and spring semesters only. Summer terms are not included.

This is the second Report on Timely Graduation prepared by the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. The first was submitted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in November, 2005. Comparing the data in the two reports, one finds that the number of credit hours attempted and mean semesters for completion increased in both the statewide sample and for UTPB. The statewide numbers increased at a higher rate than UTPB, making the number of credits attempted by UTPB graduates slightly below that of the state as a whole. Last year UTPB's average was slightly above the state average. UTPB's mean semesters to completion remains roughly one semester above the statewide average.

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A comparison of this year's report to last year's also finds a significant increase in University activities designed to promote timely graduation. In the last year the University of Texas System Board of Regents made improvement of graduation rates one of the highest priorities for every university in the UT System. UT Permian Basin has added improved graduation rates to its strategic initiatives. A plan for improving student success has been developed and is now being implemented. While it may take several years to see the results of the new graduation rate initiative, UT Permian Basin is committed to student success and will work to continuously improve the timely graduation of its students.

Data on Undergraduate Completion

Table One provides a summary of the time-to-degree information for UT Permian Basin.

Table One
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Time-to-Degree

<u>Institution Name</u>	<u>FICE</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u>Credits Attempted</u>	<u>Mean Semesters</u>
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Science and Math	34	151	12
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Arts and Architecture	52	151	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Business	40	160	12
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Social Sciences and Service	95	150	11
Total Graduates			221		
Institutional Average				152	11

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, October, 2006

Table Two compares the time-to-degree information for UT Permian Basin with the averages of the means for all public universities in Texas. Table Three provides comparisons for institutions in the UT System in four program areas for which UT Permian Basin has graduates.

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**Table Two
Comparison of Statewide and UTPB
Time-to-Degree in Eight Program Categories**

Program Area	Number of Graduates Statewide	Number of Graduates at UTPB	Statewide Institutional Mean Semesters	UTPB Mean Semesters	Statewide Mean Credits Attempted	UTPB Mean Credits Attempted
Science & Math	4942	34	10	12	153	151
Agriculture	1478	N/A	10	N/A	155	N/A
Business	10913	40	11	12	152	160
Engineering	2639	N/A	11	N/A	170	N/A
Health	1730	N/A	11	N/A	158	N/A
Liberal Arts, Fine Arts & Architecture	13212	52	11	11	155	151
Social Sciences & Services	11188	95	11	11	153	150
Technology	712	N/A	11	N/A	161	N/A
Grand Total/ Mean	46814	221	11	12	156	153

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, October, 2006

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

**Table Three
Time-to-Degree Statistics
By Program Areas In Which UTPB Has Graduates
University of Texas System Institutions**

<u>Institution Name</u>	<u>FICE</u>	<u>Program Area</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u>Credits Attempted</u>	<u>Mean Semesters</u>
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	003658	Science and Math	1017	138	9
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	009741	Science and Math	234	144	10
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	011163	Science and Math	35	147	10
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	003656	Science and Math	169	149	10
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	010115	Science and Math	232	163	11
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	003599	Science and Math	142	170	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Science and Math	34	151	12
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	003661	Science and Math	141	157	12
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	030646	Science and Math	55	168	12
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	003658	Arts and Architecture	2259	128	9
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	009741	Arts and Architecture	266	145	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Arts and Architecture	52	151	11
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	003656	Arts and Architecture	565	153	11
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	010115	Arts and Architecture	504	157	11
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	011163	Arts and Architecture	113	162	11
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	003599	Arts and Architecture	471	164	11
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	030646	Arts and Architecture	90	164	12
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	003661	Arts and Architecture	275	163	13
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	003658	Business	964	123	8
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	009741	Business	413	144	10
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	003656	Business	511	148	10
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	011163	Business	111	152	11
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	010115	Business	575	153	11
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	003599	Business	230	167	11
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	003661	Business	232	157	12
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Business	40	160	12
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	030646	Business	82	164	12
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	003658	Social Sciences and Service	1964	129	9
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	009741	Social Sciences and Service	224	140	10
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	010115	Social Sciences and Service	415	147	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Social Sciences and Service	95	150	11
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	003656	Social Sciences and Service	306	154	11
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	011163	Social Sciences and Service	81	155	11
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	030646	Social Sciences and Service	114	158	11
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	003599	Social Sciences and Service	253	167	11
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	003661	Social Sciences and Service	203	156	12

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, October, 2006

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The University of Texas of the Permian Basin is slightly below the statewide mean in terms of credit hours attempted. It is above the mean by one semester for the number of semesters enrolled when compared with the statewide averages. Comparing UTPB means with those of other University of Texas System institutions shows UT Permian Basin to be at the median or below in terms of the credit hours attempted by graduates in three of the four program areas. The one area that is above median is business. The University is below the state average in terms of credit hours attempted.

For the University to have fewer credit hours attempted than average while its graduates are taking longer to graduate would seem to indicate that UTPB students are taking fewer credit hours per semester on average than students at other Texas public universities. This may be an indication of the relative number of part-time students at UTPB compared to state averages and the outside of class commitments of its students. Results from the National Survey of Student Engagement, Noel-Levitz Student Survey, and other surveys conducted by the University in the past have indicated that UTPB students tend to be employed more hours per week than comparative peer institutions. These surveys also indicate that UTPB students tend to have more family obligations than students in the national comparative groups. To help these students to a more timely graduation, UT Permian Basin is working to enhance financial aid and student counseling/assistance services.

Students taking fewer credits per semester than average may also reflect problems with class scheduling or advising that would lead students to take fewer credits than they can successfully pass. UT Permian Basin has continuously looked for ways to improve its schedules to ensure every student has the courses needed to graduate when the student is ready to take them. It has also developed a number of ways to ensure that academic advising encourages students to graduate in a timely fashion.

Efforts to Help Students Graduate More Quickly

The Board of Regents of the University of Texas System has made improvement in graduation rates one of the highest priorities of every institution in the UT System. UT Permian Basin, which had long been working to improve its graduation rates, embraced the new emphasis of the Board, and has significantly increased its efforts and focus on student success. Where increasing graduation rates had been part of the University's "Growth" strategic initiative, it has now been identified as a separate fifth strategic initiative in the University's Compact with the UT System, reflecting the importance of student success. The University has developed an integrated plan for improving student success and timely graduation which includes efforts in every area of the University from academics, to student services, to design elements in new buildings being planned. The goals of this Graduation Rate Improvement Initiative are to bring UT Permian Basin to the national four, five, and six year graduation rates for comparable institutions by 2015. These are stretch goals for the institution, but goals it is committed to meet.

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Efforts to Ensure Undergraduates Graduate in a Timely Manner

An integral part of UT Permian Basin's graduation rate initiatives are efforts explicitly targeting toward getting students to graduate in a timely manner. These efforts include:

1. Financial Aid Incentives and Programs
2. Informational Programs
3. Improved Academic Advising
4. Enhanced Student Success Services
5. Course Redesign Pilot

Financial Aid Incentives. In addition to the state tuition rebated for graduating without excess credit hours, UT Permian Basin has created its "Graduate on Time" program. Under this program any student who completes thirty semester credit hours in a calendar year (fall through summer) earns a \$400.00 tuition credit that can be used in their senior year. The thirty credits must fulfill degree requirements. Credits that repeat courses already taken do not count for the program.

The Graduate on Time program is designed to provide students with a financial incentive to progress toward graduation in a timely manner. It is also designed to provide an incentive and the means to complete the senior year. Historically, many UT Permian Basin students "stop out" from college, stop taking courses in order to earn funds to pay for college. This has led to many instances where students reach their senior year, but then may take several years to complete the degree. The Graduate on Time program will provide extra funding for that senior year so that students might not need to stop out.

UT Permian Basin's scholarship programs also encourage timely graduation. The Presidential, Presidential Plus, and Freshman Merit Scholarships are awarded to entering freshman students. Each of these scholarships are renewable past the freshman year contingent on the recipient making a grade point average of 3.00 or higher while completing a yearly progress toward a degree.

Informational Programs. Every opportunity is taken to inform students of the incentives for timely graduation and the consequences of taking an excessive number of credits. The state tuition rebate for timely graduation, UTPB's Graduate on Time incentive, and regulations on excess hours are printed in the University's Catalog and on its website. The freshman and transfer orientation programs include sessions where these incentives and regulations are discussed with incoming students and their parents.

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Every new freshman is required to enroll and attend the freshman seminar. Degree planning is covered extensively in this seminar. The students are required to have a degree plan developed as a requirement for the seminar, and registration for the spring semester is done in the seminar. All of these activities in the freshman seminar include emphasis on both the incentives for timely graduation and the regulations on excessive credits.

Academic Advising. UT Permian Basin uses a mixed mode for providing academic advising to students. The college and schools have advising staff members and the faculty perform advising, particularly in areas of course selection for particular career options within a major. To ensure that both faculty and staff advisors promote the graduation incentives and advise students to make timely progress toward graduation, the incentives, student success measures, and excess credits regulations have been covered in the annual advisors' workshops. Every major has a four-year suggested course of study for students. The President, Provost, and Deans have stressed to all faculty in faculty meetings the importance of encouraging students to make timely progress to graduation.

As mentioned above, the freshman seminars are being used to advise new students of the importance of planning their academic careers with timely graduation as a goal. The professional advisors work with the freshman seminar coordinator and instructors along with discipline faculty members to develop a degree plan for every freshman seminar student. They help to register students for the semester following the freshman seminar; usually it is the spring semester. In all of these activities the advising staff encourages students to move to timely graduation and inform students of the incentives and regulations on timely graduation.

Approximately forty percent of the incoming undergraduates to UTPB enter as transfer students, most from area community colleges. To help these students move to timely graduation, UTPB has developed its Direct Connect program with area colleges. This program has a student at an area community college declare an intent to transfer to UTPB. This student is then provided academic advising, financial aid advising, and other assistance while the student is at the community college. Under this program academic advising staff members have weekly office hours on the campuses of Odessa College and Midland College. They also visit the campuses of New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs and Western Texas College each semester. With funding from a joint UTPB-Howard College Hispanic Serving Institution Grant, UTPB and Howard College in Big Spring have a joint academic counselor who splits her time and duties between the two campuses.

The commitment that UTPB has made to the community colleges in the Direct Connect program is that its advisors working with the community college staff will help students prepare a degree plan through which they will earn an associate degree from the community college and a UTPB bachelor's degree in the most efficient manner possible. Because of earlier articulation agreements, the THECB transfer fields of study, and other less formal efforts to align the UTPB and community college curriculum, students in the direct connect program typically do not have to take any extra hours to earn both the

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associate and the bachelor's degree. The development of the degree plans includes discussion of the incentives and the regulations related to timely graduation.

- **Enhanced Student Success Services.** Student success in their courses reduces the need to repeat courses and helps students graduate in a timely fashion. UT Permian Basin has a long history of providing assistance for student success. These efforts have been expanded with the Graduation Rate Improvement Initiative. In the last year the following have been added:
- **Supplement Instruction.** Supplemental Instruction, which provides tutors and help session instructors for students in courses with high withdrawal and failure rates, has been expanded. This includes providing supplemental instruction for courses that are not in the University core requirements, but are gateway courses in particular majors.
- **Literacy Center.** A Literacy Center was opened through funding from the Hispanic Serving Institution Grant. This center provides study skills training for students.
- **Math and Science Center Expansion.** The Math and Science Center's facilities have been expanded to reducing crowding. This center provides tutors and computer assisted tutorials for students in math and science courses.
- **Freshman Interest Groups.** Freshman Interest Groups were started in the fall, 2006. This program groups students with similar career or educational goals into freshman seminars that include career exploration and cohort building along with the regular freshman seminar program.
- **Expanded Mentoring Program.** The Mentoring Program for students identified as at risk has been expanded.

Course Redesign

UT Permian Basin has a long history of the use of technology to enhance learning in classes. In an October, 2006 presentation before the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Carol Twigg of the National Center for Academic Transformation identified five approaches to redesigning courses to enhance student success and increase efficiency.

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Approximately twenty percent of UTPB's classes are technology assisted classes where web-based assignment or computer lab based exercises extend the learning opportunities for students. These are especially useful in meeting the different learning styles of students.

UT Permian Basin, also, has a long history of providing supplemental programs to assist students in traditional classes. These include the Writing Center and Math and Science Center programs as well as supplemental instruction.

In the 2006-2007 Academic Year UT Permian Basin will be part of a UT TeleCampus pilot program to use emporium or buffet approaches to redesigning the freshman calculus course. The purpose of the pilot is to show how these techniques can be used to increase student earning and student success. With student success should come improved student progress toward graduation.

Efforts to Ensure That Undergraduates Do Not Attempt an Excessive Number of Semester Credit Hours Beyond the Minimum Number Required to Complete the Student's Degree Program

As discussed above one way the University is working to ensure undergraduates do not attempt excess credit hours is through informational efforts in the Catalog, freshman and transfer orientation programs, and freshman seminars. Additionally, the incentives and excess credit rules are printed on the back of registration cards used when students register on campus. Faculty advisors are also encouraged to keep the incentives and regulations before the students they advise.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

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Attachment 2

H.B. No. 1172

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 51, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 51.4032 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.4032. REPORT OF EFFORTS CONCERNING TIMELY GRADUATION.

(a) Not later than November 1 of each year, the president of each general academic teaching institution, as defined by Section 61.003, shall provide to the governing board of the institution a report for the preceding academic year that examines the institution's efforts concerning timely graduation of its undergraduate students.

(b) The report must:

(1) state, for each undergraduate degree program, the average number of semester credit hours attempted and the average number of fall and spring semesters attended by a student completing the program;

(2) state the specific efforts implemented by the institution to ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner and do not attempt an excessive number of semester credit hours beyond the minimum number required to complete the students' degree programs, including the institution's efforts to provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation, including the development of 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, and to implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation; and

(3) include any other information required by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(c) An institution's report must be in the form prescribed by coordinating board rule adopted in consultation with general academic teaching institutions.

**Report on Timely Graduation
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin**

**Submitted to the University of Texas System
In Compliance with
Section 1, H.B. 1172 of the Texas Education Code**

November, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS OF THE PERMIAN BASIN

Report on Timely Graduation November, 2005

This report has been prepared in compliance with Section 1, H.B. 1172 of the Texas Education Code. It provides data on undergraduates completing programs at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin and information on UT Permian Basin efforts to promote timely graduations. The format for this report, including the major topics for discussion, follow the format recommended by the Texas Higher Coordinating Board.

Data on Undergraduate Completion

Table One provides a summary of the time-to-degree information for UT Permian Basin. The information from the table and the methodology was developed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Table One
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
Time-to-Degree

Institution Name	FICE	Program	# Grads	Mean Credits Attempted	Mean Semesters
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Science and Math	38	151	12
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Arts and Architecture	71	149	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Business	36	155	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Social Sciences and Service	76	150	11
Total Graduates			221		
Institutional Average				151	11

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, October 29, 2005

Table Two compares the time to degree information for UT Permian Basin with the averages for all universities in Texas. Table Three provides the same information for all UT System institutions by program.

Table Two
Comparison of Statewide and UTPB
Time-to-Degree in Eight Program Categories

Program Area	CIP Codes	Number of Graduates Statewide	Number of Graduates At UTPB	Statewide Mean Semesters¹	UTPB Mean Semesters¹	Statewide Mean Credits Attempted²	UTPB Mean Credits Attempted²
Science & Math	03,11,26,27,40	4,746	38	10	12	149	151
Agriculture	1	1,477	n/a	10	n/a	152	n/a
Business	52	11,196	36	10	11	148	155
Engineering	14	2,544	n/a	10	n/a	151	n/a
Health	51	1,655	n/a	11	n/a	154	n/a
Liberal & Fine Arts and Architecture	04,05,09,10,16,22,23,24,25,29,30,38,50	12,261	71	10	11	149	149
Social Sciences and Service	12,19,31,42,43,44,45,54	10,396	76	10	11	147	150
Technology	15,41,46,47,48,49	636	n/a	11	n/a	163	n/a
Grand Mean		44,911	221	10	11	149	151

¹ Fall and spring semesters only.

² Semester credit hours attempted during fall, spring and summer semesters

Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, October 29, 2005

Table Three
Time to Degree Statistics
By Program Areas
UT System Institutions

Institution Name	FICE	Program	# Grads	Credits Attempted	Mean Semesters
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	003658	Science and Math	1026	138	9
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	009741	Science and Math	228	146	10
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Science and Math	38	151	12
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	003656	Science and Math	123	152	10
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	011163	Science and Math	32	155	11
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	010115	Science and Math	204	161	11
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	003661	Science and Math	109	166	11
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	003599	Science and Math	122	166	11
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	030646	Science and Math	40	172	12
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	003658	Arts and Architecture	2316	129	9
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	009741	Arts and Architecture	166	144	10
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Arts and Architecture	71	149	11
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	003656	Arts and Architecture	506	154	11
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	011163	Arts and Architecture	103	155	11
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	010115	Arts and Architecture	369	156	11
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	030646	Arts and Architecture	115	164	11
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	003599	Arts and Architecture	377	168	11
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	003661	Arts and Architecture	278	170	12
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	003658	Business	1044	124	9
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	009741	Business	359	143	10
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	030646	Business	86	150	10
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	003656	Business	589	151	10
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	011163	Business	73	153	11
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	010115	Business	505	154	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Business	36	155	11
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	003661	Business	188	159	11
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	003599	Business	257	163	11
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	003658	Soc. Science & Serv.	1917	129	9
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	009741	Soc. Science & Serv.	172	138	10
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	011163	Soc. Science & Serv.	80	149	10
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	010115	Soc. Science & Serv.	428	150	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	009930	Soc. Science & Serv.	76	150	11
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	003656	Soc. Science & Serv.	285	151	10
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	030646	Soc. Science & Serv.	118	156	11
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	003661	Soc. Science & Serv.	198	157	11
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	003599	Soc. Science & Serv.	252	167	11

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin is slightly above the mean in terms of credit hours attempted and number of semesters its graduates are enrolled when compared to the statewide means. Comparing its means with those of other University of Texas System component institutions shows the same or fewer credits on average for all program areas except for business, where the average is two credits higher than the median. In terms of semesters enrolled, UT Permian Basin's mean semesters to graduation equal the median in all program areas except for science and math. The additional credit hours and semester to graduate are most likely explained by UT Permian Basin's large number of community college transfer students, as well as its historically high number of part-time students. These issues are addressed below in the description of UT Permian Basin's efforts to help students graduate in a timely fashion.

The comparison with UT System institutions does indicate that UT Permian Basin is at the median or lower in terms of credits attempted in three of the four program areas. UT Permian Basin is at the median for number of semesters enrolled by graduates in three of the four program areas.

Efforts to Help Students Graduate More Quickly

Efforts to ensure undergraduates graduate in a timely manner

The efforts of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin to ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner fall into three types of efforts—

1. Financial Aid Incentives and Programs
2. Informational Programs
3. Academic Advising

Financial Incentive. In addition to the state tuition rebate for graduating without excess credit hours, UT Permian Basin has created its Cash for College program. Under this program any student who completes thirty semester credit hours in an academic year (fall through summer school) earns a \$400.00 tuition credit that can be used in their senior year. The thirty credits must fulfill degree requirements. Credits that repeat courses already taken do not count for the Cash for College tuition credit.

Cash for College is designed to provide a financial incentive for progress toward graduation. It is also designed to provide an incentive to complete the senior year. Historically, many UT Permian Basin students “stop out” from college, stop taking courses in order to earn funds to pay for college. This has led to many instances where students reach their senior year, but then may take several years to complete the degree. The Cash for College program will provide extra funding that senior year so that students might not need to stop out.

UT Permian Basin’s scholarship programs also encourage timely graduation. The Presidential Plus Scholarships and the Freshman Merit Scholarships are awarded to entering freshman students in the top quarter of their high school graduating class. Both of these scholarships are renewable past the freshman year contingent on the recipient making a G.P.A. of 3.00 and making good progress toward completing a degree.

Informational Efforts. Every opportunity is taken to inform students of incentives for timely graduation and the consequences of taking an excessive number of credits. The state tuition rebate for graduating with a minimum number of credits and the fact that students may have to pay the equivalent of out-of-state tuition for credits in excess of the regulatory limits appear in the Undergraduate Catalog, course schedules and other publications. Cash for College is promoted with posters and brochures throughout campus. Cash for College and the state programs are also discussed in the freshman orientation and the freshman seminar.

Academic Advising. The University holds workshops to update its faculty and advising staff members each semester. The programs as mentioned above are discussed at these workshops. Additionally, the importance to the students of the need to decrease time to graduation is explained. Advisors are asked to encourage students to take full credit loads and complete at least thirty credit hours an academic year.

Efforts to ensure that undergraduates do not attempt an excessive number of semester credit hours beyond the minimum number required to complete the student's degree program

The notice of the state tuition rebate program and the state maximum number credits for a degree is printed on the add-and-drop forms used by the Registrar's Office. As discussed above, information on these programs also appear in other publications of the University and are part of the orientations and the freshman seminar.

The Registrar's Office sends a notice to students who are nearing the maximum number of credits under state statute. This notice informs students of the rules and tells them they may be charged the equivalent of out-of-state tuition when they exceed the limit.

The Registrar's Office also takes the accumulated credits information from the Coordinating Board to update the student's official record. This is used to assess the higher tuition when they have exceeded the regulatory limit.

Efforts to provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation

In addition to the workshops held for faculty and advising staff each semester, UT Permian Basin has a Direct Connect program of advisement for transfer students. The Direct Connect program is a series of agreements between UT Permian Basin and area community colleges. In a direct connect program a student informs either UT Permian Basin or their college registrar of their intent to transfer to UTPB. UT Permian Basin then will provide the student with academic advising to earn an associate's degree from the community college and a bachelor's degree from UTPB with the minimum number of credits. UT Permian Basin academic advising staff members visit the Odessa College and Midland College campuses weekly to work with Direct Connect students. With funding from a new collaborative grant with Howard College, an advisor will be hired that will spend four days a week on the Howard College campus and one day a week on the UT Permian Basin campus.

The University is currently purchasing and installing an automated degree audit program. This system will show students and their academic advisors how their credits count for a specific

program. It will also allow students to see how courses will count in a new degree plan should they change majors.

Efforts to develop an online student degree progress report

The University of Texas of the Permian Basin has created a website report on student progress. This website's URL is <http://www.utpb.edu/timetograd/index.htm>. It contains the statistics that appear in this report and links to descriptions of the services and programs that encourage timely graduation.

The University has purchased a degree audit system and will be implementing it in FY 2006. This online system enables students to quickly find which earned credits meet degree requirements and find information regarding required credits needed for various majors. The system will provide the required student degree progress report each academic term.

Efforts to implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation

UT Permian Basin's primary tuition action taken to encourage timely graduation is the Cash for College program discussed above. The University does charge students who exceed the regulatory set limits for publicly funded credits for graduation the equivalent of non-resident tuition.

APPENDIX

Average Credits Attempted and Mean Semesters toward Baccalaureate Degree in Program Areas By All Texas Universities

**Average Credits Attempted and Mean Semesters toward Baccalaureate Degree in Program Areas
By All Texas Universities**

Institution Name	Program	# Grads	Credits Attempted	Mean Semesters
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	Science and Math	1026	138	9
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.	Science and Math	1058	140	9
TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY	Science and Math	40	141	10
ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY	Science and Math	57	143	9
LAMAR UNIVERSITY	Science and Math	27	145	10
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	Science and Math	228	146	10
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	Science and Math	52	147	10
U. OF HOUSTON-VICTORIA	Science and Math	19	148	10
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY	Science and Math	33	149	10
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE	Science and Math	51	151	10
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON	Science and Math	210	151	10
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	Science and Math	38	151	12
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	Science and Math	123	152	10
TEXAS A&M UNIV AT GALVESTON	Science and Math	63	153	10
TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY	Science and Math	50	155	10
TEXAS A&M UNIV-CORPUS CHRISTI	Science and Math	129	155	10
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY	Science and Math	205	155	10
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	Science and Math	32	155	11
TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIV	Science and Math	32	156	10
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA	Science and Math	10	156	11
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY	Science and Math	49	157	9
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIV	Science and Math	137	158	10
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS	Science and Math	169	158	10
TEXAS STATE UNIV-SAN MARCOS	Science and Math	202	159	11
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY	Science and Math	15	160	11
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	Science and Math	204	161	11
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY	Science and Math	55	164	11
TEXAS A&M UNIV-KINGSVILLE	Science and Math	41	165	11
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	Science and Math	109	166	11
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	Science and Math	122	166	11
U. OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN	Science and Math	21	166	12
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	Science and Math	37	171	10
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	Science and Math	40	172	12
U. OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE	Science and Math	58	175	12
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	Arts and Architecture	2316	129	9
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA	Arts and Architecture	38	137	11
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY	Arts and Architecture	114	141	10
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.	Arts and Architecture	1276	143	9
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	Arts and Architecture	166	144	10
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY	Arts and Architecture	790	148	10

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE	Arts and Architecture	276	149	10
TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY	Arts and Architecture	119	149	10
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	Arts and Architecture	71	149	11
TEXAS STATE UNIV-SAN MARCOS	Arts and Architecture	1037	150	10
LAMAR UNIVERSITY	Arts and Architecture	216	152	10
ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY	Arts and Architecture	174	153	10
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS	Arts and Architecture	1073	153	10
TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY	Arts and Architecture	141	154	10
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	Arts and Architecture	257	154	10
TEXAS A&M UNIV-CORPUS CHRISTI	Arts and Architecture	153	154	11
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	Arts and Architecture	506	154	11
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIV	Arts and Architecture	443	155	10
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	Arts and Architecture	103	155	11
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	Arts and Architecture	369	156	11
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON	Arts and Architecture	557	156	11
U. OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN	Arts and Architecture	195	157	12
U. OF HOUSTON-VICTORIA	Arts and Architecture	51	158	11
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY	Arts and Architecture	480	160	10
U. OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE	Arts and Architecture	172	162	12
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY	Arts and Architecture	25	163	11
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	Arts and Architecture	115	164	11
TEXAS A&M UNIV AT GALVESTON	Arts and Architecture	14	165	10
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY	Arts and Architecture	99	168	10
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	Arts and Architecture	377	168	11
TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIV	Arts and Architecture	81	170	12
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	Arts and Architecture	278	170	12
TEXAS A&M UNIV-KINGSVILLE	Arts and Architecture	98	174	11
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	Arts and Architecture	23	176	11
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	Business	1044	124	9
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.	Business	1299	135	9
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY	Business	1020	141	9
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	Business	359	143	10
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY	Business	105	144	10
ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY	Business	147	145	10
TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY	Business	217	145	10
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	Business	116	146	10
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA	Business	39	147	11
LAMAR UNIVERSITY	Business	201	148	10
TEXAS STATE UNIV-SAN MARCOS	Business	823	148	10
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE	Business	118	149	10
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	Business	86	150	10
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	Business	589	151	10
TEXAS A&M UNIV AT GALVESTON	Business	41	152	10
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIV	Business	337	153	10
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	Business	73	153	11
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY	Business	467	154	10
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	Business	505	154	11
TEXAS A&M UNIV-CORPUS CHRISTI	Business	185	155	10

U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	Business	36	155	11
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS	Business	763	155	11
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY	Business	111	156	10
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON	Business	1153	158	11
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	Business	188	159	11
TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY	Business	46	160	10
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	Business	73	161	10
U. OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE	Business	190	162	12
TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIV	Business	117	163	11
TEXAS A&M UNIV-KINGSVILLE	Business	109	163	11
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	Business	257	163	11
U. OF HOUSTON-VICTORIA	Business	19	163	12
U. OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN	Business	346	170	12
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY	Business	5	180	12
U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN	Soc. Science & Serv.	1917	129	9
U. OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	Soc. Science & Serv.	172	138	10
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY	Soc. Science & Serv.	740	145	10
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.	Soc. Science & Serv.	1397	146	9
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-TEXARKANA	Soc. Science & Serv.	28	146	10
MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY	Soc. Science & Serv.	98	147	10
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-COMMERCE	Soc. Science & Serv.	150	148	10
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS	Soc. Science & Serv.	773	148	10
U. OF TEXAS AT TYLER	Soc. Science & Serv.	80	149	10
U. OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO	Soc. Science & Serv.	428	150	11
U. OF TEXAS-PERMIAN BASIN	Soc. Sciences & Serv.	76	150	11
TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY	Soc. Science & Serv.	195	151	10
U. OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	Soc. Science & Serv.	285	151	10
WEST TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	Soc. Science & Serv.	97	152	10
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON	Soc. Science & Serv.	578	152	11
ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY	Soc. Science & Serv.	191	153	10
LAMAR UNIVERSITY	Soc. Science & Serv.	138	153	10
TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY	Soc. Science & Serv.	116	153	10
TEXAS STATE UNIV-SAN MARCOS	Soc. Science & Serv.	765	154	11
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY	Soc. Science & Serv.	473	155	10
TEXAS A&M UNIV-CORPUS CHRISTI	Soc. Science & Serv.	184	155	11
U. OF HOUSTON-DOWNTOWN	Soc. Science & Serv.	116	155	11
U. OF HOUSTON-CLEAR LAKE	Soc. Science & Serv.	91	156	11
U. OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE	Soc. Science & Serv.	118	156	11
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY	Soc. Science & Serv.	107	157	9
U. OF TEXAS AT EL PASO	Soc. Science & Serv.	198	157	11
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY	Soc. Science & Serv.	29	158	10
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIV	Soc. Science & Serv.	298	160	10
TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIV	Soc. Science & Serv.	74	161	11
U. OF HOUSTON-VICTORIA	Soc. Science & Serv.	23	164	12
U. OF TEXAS-PAN AMERICAN	Soc. Science & Serv.	252	167	11
TEXAS A&M UNIV-KINGSVILLE	Soc. Science & Serv.	122	170	11
TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	Soc. Science & Serv.	62	171	11