

LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Report of Efforts Concerning Timely Graduation

1. 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. *Note: The number of graduates has increased since last report, the number of hours attempted has remained essentially unchanged, and the mean semesters to graduation has declined.*

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

Degree Program	# Grads	Credits Attempted	Mean Semesters
Science and Math	36	153	10
Arts and Architecture	265	150	10
Business	185	149	10
Engineering	64	167	11
Health	64	146	10
Social Sciences and Service	148	149	10
Technology	11	143	11
Total Graduates	773		
Institutional Average		151	10

* Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, 2007

2. The specific efforts ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner.
 - Following the lead and guidance of the State Legislature and Coordinating Board, course equivalencies (TCCN), field of study curricula, and numerous 2+2 and 3+1 articulation agreements exist to ensure that comparable courses and credits from other institutions transfer to Lamar University.
(http://www.lamar.edu/admissions/1366_2450.htm)
 - Lamar's Office of Developmental Studies coordinates the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) to ensure that students lacking college readiness (academic) skills are identified and offered appropriate counseling and remediation. Lamar University's Writing Center offers assistance for students with the difficulties of college-level writing.
(<http://www.lamar.edu/TSI/TexasSuccessInitiative.pdf>)
 - Lamar University has partnerships with numerous high schools and offers dual credit courses accepted toward university degrees. In addition, Lamar administers the College Board's Advanced Placement program (AP) and SAT-II subject examinations, the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), the International Baccalaureate program, departmental advanced standing examinations and The Texas Academy for Leadership in the Humanities.

http://dept.lamar.edu/careercenter/clep_tests.htm) &
<http://dept.lamar.edu/taolith/>)

- To accommodate student schedules, Lamar University offers early morning (at reduced tuition/fees), evening and Saturday classes, as well as classes at off-campus sites. Web-based, televised and two-way interactive classes also provide flexibility. New to Lamar University are two on-line baccalaureate degree programs (B.A.A.S. & B.G.S.) and several dozen new courses for students unable to travel to campus. Childcare for students with young children is offered through Lamar's Early Childhood Development Center, and Lamar's Office of Services for Students with Disabilities provides assistance for those with special needs. (<http://dept.lamar.edu/sfswd/>) & (<http://dept.lamar.edu/cde/cdehtml/index.html>)
 - With two semesters, four summer sessions, and two mini-sessions, Lamar University offers year-round instruction for students. Degree requirements and advice for graduating in a timely fashion are presented to and discussed with all entering students who participate in one of Lamar's seven summer orientation sessions. (http://www.lamar.edu/admissions/1366_2603.htm)
 - Well trained academic advisors meet with students each semester to review progress and select courses for the upcoming semester. Moreover, students are able to track their academic progress either online with Lamar's degree audit software or in person with an academic advisor. (<https://bmtweb.lamar.edu/ahomepg.htm>)
 - Lamar University offers almost 100 baccalaureate degree programs, including the Bachelor of General Studies and the Bachelor of Applied Arts & Sciences — both generalist degrees for those with credits that may not satisfy more structured degree programs. Hour requirements, admission requirements and recommended semester loads are presented in the *General Catalog*, which is available online and in hard copy. (http://www.lamar.edu/admissions/1366_2450.htm)
 - Lamar University offers numerous student support services, including department-based tutoring centers, a university-wide mentoring program (WINGS), the Big Red Resources information center, Academic Enhancement Workshops (free to all students, covering topics such as *note-taking, time management, how to make an A* and *stress management*), Supplemental Instruction (SI) for "gatekeeper" courses and two U.S. Department of Education funded TRIO programs (Student Support Services & McNair Scholars). Opening next year, Lamar University's new Center for Academic Success will consolidate counseling, advisement and retention services for students. (<http://dept.lamar.edu/generalstudies/>)
 - Lamar University offers numerous financial aid and assistance programs, including federal Title IV programs, grants and loans; state aid programs; scholarships; short term loans, and installment payment plans. Online services and counseling are available as well as a fully staffed Student Financial Aid Office <https://bmtweb.lamar.edu/ahomepg.htm>.
3. 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.

- In accordance with State law (TEC 54.0065), Lamar University offers and promotes the \$1,000 tuition rebate program to encourage timely graduation. Also, Lamar will not submit undergraduate degree programs with hour requirements in excess of 120 to the TSUS Board of Regents or the THECB for approval. Rather, a university committee will review submissions of such degree programs for evidence of “compelling academic reasons” for their programs to contain more than the maximum allowed by the law. Issues considered include accreditation, excess core hours, and comparison to peer institutions. The committee will make a recommendation on each degree program to the Provost, and those approved will be documented and results kept on file in case of student complaint and THECB audit. (<http://www.lamar.edu/pdfs/FinancialAidAndAwards.pdf>)
 - Lamar University’s academic advisors are carefully trained to review student matriculation to ensure that excessive hours are not attempted unless the student requests the additional hours and is aware of the added cost and potential delay in graduation.
4. To provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation.
- Deans and the Director of General Studies receive rosters of students who could graduate during the upcoming academic year. In turn, academic advisors in each of the colleges assist these students and encourage them to complete their degrees in a timely manner. Academic advisement is mandatory for students in most degree programs.
 - Academic advisors and students use Lamar’s degree audit system to track and verify progress toward graduation. (<https://bmtweb.lamar.edu/ahomepg.htm>)
 - Degree requirements and advice for graduating in a timely manner are presented to and discussed with all entering students who participate in one of Lamar’s seven orientation sessions.
<http://dept.lamar.edu/studentaffairs/Orientation/2007%20Orientation/website/index.php>
 - Counselors in Financial Aid and at Orientation stress the importance of taking sufficient course loads to graduate in a timely fashion.
(<http://dept.lamar.edu/financialaid/>)
5. 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.
- Academic advisors and students use Lamar’s online transcript and degree audit systems to track and verify progress toward graduation.
(<https://bmtweb.lamar.edu/ahomepg.htm>)
 - Lamar University’s General Catalog and Class Schedule are available online to assist students. (http://www.lamar.edu/admissions/1366_2450.htm)
6. To implement tuition policies that encourages timely graduation.

- In accordance with State law, Lamar University has a \$1,000 tuition rebate program (TEC 54.0065) to encourage timely graduation. As noted above, Lamar will not submit undergraduate degree programs with hour requirements in excess of 120 to the TSUS Board of Regents or the THECB for approval. Rather, a university committee will review submissions of such degree programs for evidence of “compelling academic reasons” for their programs to contain more than the maximum allowed by the law. Issues considered include accreditation, excess core hours, and comparison to peer institutions. The committee will make a recommendation on each degree program to the Provost, and those approved will be documented and results kept on file in case of student complaint and THECB audit. (<http://www.lamar.edu/pdfs/FinancialAidAndAwards.pdf>)
- Lamar University offers a wide variety of institutional, state and federal financial aid to help students complete their studies. (<http://dept.lamar.edu/financialaid/>)
- Reduced tuition/fees are given for core courses offered early morning (i.e., 7-7:50 a.m., M-F) during the week and on Saturday mornings (9-11:40 a.m.)

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Degree Program	# Grads	Credits Attempted	Mean Semesters
Science and Math	41	154	11
Arts and Architecture	252	150	11
Business	169	147	10
Engineering	64	167	11
Health	65	154	11
Social Sciences and Service	134	145	10
Technology	9	147	10
Total Graduates	734		
Institutional Average		150	11

* Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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 - Following the lead and guidance of the Legislature and Coordinating Board, course equivalencies (TCCN) and numerous 2+2 and 3+1 articulation agreements exist to ensure that comparable courses and credits from other institutions transfer to Lamar University. (http://www.lamar.edu/admissions/1366_2450.htm)
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 - With two semesters, two summer sessions and two mini-sessions, Lamar University offers year-round instruction. Degree requirements and advice for graduating in a timely fashion are presented to and discussed with all entering students who participate in one of Lamar's six summer orientation sessions. (http://www.lamar.edu/admissions/1366_2603.htm)
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3. 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.
- In accordance with State law (TEC 54.0065), Lamar University has a \$,1000 tuition rebate program to encourage timely graduation and has enforced a 121 semester credit hour maximum for undergraduate degree programs (unless Texas State University System Board approval for additional hours has been granted). (<http://www.lamar.edu/pdfs/FinancialAidAndAwards.pdf>)
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