

Texas A&M International University

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

<u>Degree Program</u>	<u># of Grads</u>	<u>Credits Attempted</u>	<u>Mean Semesters</u>
Science and Math	26	143	9
Arts and Architecture	92	163	11
Business	85	156	11
Health	11	153	11
Social Sciences and Service	94	157	11
Total Graduates	308		
Institutional Average		154	10

*Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

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

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

First Time Freshmen: Students are required to be advised by the academic advisors in the Recruitment and School Relations Office for the entire first year. A suggested four-year plan is initiated with a copy provided to the student. At the start of the second year of enrollment, students are advised by department faculty. All freshmen students are required to participate in Learning Communities which includes a one hour seminar. This course focuses on models of academic success, founded on an understanding of learning theories from the fields of education and psychology and the application of those theories to core curriculum content through writing, discussion groups, information literacy, cognitive self assessment tools, and other related issues. An introduction to academic and student life resources through peer mentoring and awareness of university resources is also included.

Transfer students are required to meet with an advisor from the Admissions or Registrar's Office for academic advising. A suggested four-year plan is initiated and a copy provided to the student. Thereafter, students meet with department faculty advisors for subsequent semesters.

College of Arts and Sciences: Undergraduate students are advised by departmental faculty following the suggested four-year plan, the two-year course rotation and the online degree plan. Students are advised to take only those courses listed on their degree plan while maintaining the required grade point average for good standing and degree requirements.

College of Business Administration: An undergraduate advisor is responsible for advising undergraduate students on majors, course selections, and academic progress.

Undergraduate students are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the advisor to review four-year major/degree plans. Two-year tentative course rotations are provided for undergraduate students and course rotations, prerequisites, and the tentative schedules by semester are reviewed with students.

The undergraduate advisor also works closely with the COBA Dean, Associate Dean, and Chairs regarding the implementation of the semester schedules to ensure that course conflicts for graduating seniors and/or within majors do not occur.

College of Education: Each education major is assigned an advisor and required to consult with this professor prior to registering for any courses. This helps insure that the both the student and the advisor are aware of the progress being made by the student to complete the degree in light of the student's plans for graduation.

Canseco School of Nursing: Academic advisement for students enrolled in the nursing program at Texas A&M International University is provided by the director and nursing faculty. Each student is assigned an advisor. This faculty member is the student's academic advisor from admission through graduation unless a change is sought by the student or is necessary due to change in faculty. The advisor's name will be included in the letter notifying the candidate that he/she has been admitted to the School of Nursing. An up to date list of advisors and advisees is available in the main office of the Canseco School of Nursing.

The role of the advisor is to assist students in: (1) planning their course of study, (2) selecting courses congruent with the nursing degree plan and career goals, and (3) utilizing existing University facilities, such as financial aid services.

Students meet with their advisors prior to or during each registration period. The purpose of this meeting is to inform the student of current offerings in the nursing program and review the advisee's progress in the degree plan. Each student is responsible for awareness and successful completion of all the degree requirements. In addition, the student is responsible for: (1) Making initial contact with academic advisor; (2) Contacting academic advisor for degree planning; (3) Contacting academic advisor for pre-registration appointment each term.

For students receiving financial aid, there are incentives for graduating in a timely manner such as the "Texas B-On-Time Loan Program" and the "Tuition Rebate for Undergraduate Students."

University faculty use an online Early Alert Referral Form to refer students with excessive absences, low assessment scores, or changes in demeanor. The Director of The First Year Success Program reviews this confidential information and determines a plan of action to assist the student. The Director may counsel the student or act as a liaison with other offices offering support services.

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

Students on financial aid are required to sign the institutional Satisfactory Academic Policy (SAP) agreement which reminds them of class limits and grade point average requirements. Financial Aid counselors meet with students and refer students to academic advisors when necessary.

College of Arts and Sciences: Faculty advisors review students' online degree plans to ensure that only courses applicable to the degree are attempted and that the appropriate grade point average for good standing and degree completion are maintained.

College of Business Administration: Student semester hour loads are monitored to comply with the maximum number of semester credit hours an undergraduate student may take as stated in the University Catalog. Any credit hours in excess of the maximum load must be approved by the Dean of the College of Business. In addition, coursework must apply to the requirements for the degree to be covered by financial aid.

College of Education: During the conference with the advisor, each student's academic record is carefully reviewed to determine the number of semester credit hours that the student has attempted, the resulting semester grade point average (GPA) and the overall GPA that the student has earned. This information is used to help determine a reasonable course load for the student. A major consideration in this process is to help the student continue to make the best academic progress possible without adversely affecting his/her academic record and standing.

Canseco School of Nursing: Faculty advisors meet with their advisees prior to or during each registration period. The purpose of this meeting is to inform the student of current offerings in the nursing program and review the advisee's progress in the degree plan. Faculty advisors ensure that only courses applicable to the degree are attempted and that the appropriate grade point average for good standing and degree completion are maintained.

3. To provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation.

The University Registrar's Office as well as the Office of Student Success provides academic counseling. Students who are confused or are falling off track are summoned to the Office for counseling and referred to academic advisors. Faculty and other offices make student referrals to the Associate Vice President for Student Success for intervention.

College of Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education; and Canseco School of Nursing: Undergraduate students schedule appointments with advisors to review tentative schedules by semester, course selections/prerequisites, and academic progress and career goals. Advisors use the student's online degree plan, suggested four-year degree plans and the two-year course rotations to provide information for undergraduate students.

4. To develop an online 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

All undergraduate students may access their respective degree plan and review their unofficial transcripts online via *UOnline* on Banner. Students also have access to suggested four-year degree plans via the online University catalog.

The online degree report provides students and advisors with information on degree requirements, courses that have been attempted, those that have been passed, and any courses that may not have been satisfactorily completed. The degree plan also includes information regarding GPA requirements for satisfactory degree completion. The GPA information is particularly important for students who may have to retake courses to raise their GPA to a required standard.

5. To implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation.

The University provides information to students regarding the "Tuition Rebate for Undergraduate Students" through the University Catalog, during advising sessions and through posted notices. Students who withdraw from a course are asked to make up the hours at their own expense for financial aid purposes. This serves as encouragement for students to stay focused and on task.

Effective Fall 2007, students attempting a course for the third time will be assessed an additional charge of \$80 per semester credit hour.

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Response to H.B. 1172 Timely Graduation Report Requirements November 2006

Efforts to Help Students Graduate More Quickly

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