



Texas Southern University

Report to the Texas Southern University Board of Regents and The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Efforts Concerning Timely Graduation for FY 2007 November 15, 2008

This report on efforts concerning timely graduation is required by Texas Education Code, Section 51.4032 and follows the format prescribed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Undergraduate Degree Program Completion Data

Average Credits Attempted and Mean Semesters toward Baccalaureate Degree in Program FY 2007

Program	# Graduates	Credits Attempted	Mean Semesters	Calculated Credits	Calculated Semesters
Science and Math	81	177	11	14,364	896
Arts and Architecture	63	161	11	10,170	672
Business	125	161	11	20,116	1,360
Health	52	194	13	10,073	670
Social Science and Services	103	172	12	17,766	1,190
Technology	16	189	12	3,031	199
Total/ Average	440	176	12		

Source: Texas Higher Education coordinating Board, Planning and Accountability, Institutional Reports on CBM-009 (Graduation Report)

Institutional Efforts to Promote Timely Graduation

1. To ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner, Texas Southern University has initiated a wide variety of proactive programs, which include the following:

TSU TSU has created an environment conducive to freshmen educational excellence and has revamped its efforts to recruit top students successfully. The recently enacted admission policy requires all students seeking acceptance to TSU to graduate or have graduated in the top 25 percent of their respective class or have a cumulative 2.0 GPA. In addition, they must have taken the SAT or ACT exams to qualify for admission.

TSU TSU has reduced most of its degree program requirements to 120 hours, and departments have developed 4, 5, and 6 year degree plans. Students are advised to choose one of these degree plans, description of which is available through the

undergraduate catalog, university websites, and academic advisors. A revised counseling process encourages full-time students to carry the course load they need to graduate in four years.

- TSU** The freshman admissions application deadline has been moved to allow students to make necessary arrangements prior to the first day of classes.
- TSU** Recruitment efforts are focusing on encouraging prospective students to apply for admission and financial aid earlier. They are also asked to send their transcript upon completion of the 11th grade so that counseling and outreach can be initiated at that point.
- TSU** Orientation is mandatory for freshmen students, during which time students are counseled about the relationship between course load and timely graduation. The First-Year Experience Program is designed to foster academic success and student engagement, a combination which leads on-time graduation.
- TSU** The revision of core course requirements allows flexibility in the evaluation of requests for transfer credit.
- TSU** Articulation Agreements and Course Equivalencies are being developed to ensure that transfer students know what courses will transfer to TSU and what courses will count toward a specific degree program. The University has developed 2+2 plans for all degree programs. The University has also initiated articulation agreements with local community colleges.
- TSU** The Academic Village, an initiative fundamental to TSU's new and improved freshman experience, will offer just that. It begins with Summer Academy, a unique experience during which entering freshmen students participate in unique academic and motivational activities. Graduation in a timely manner is one of the most emphasized topics where freshmen students will transition to an academically-charged residential campus culture. This student-centered learning community will have as its hub fully functional student housing replete with computer labs, study rooms, on-site professionals, and access to library resources.

2. To ensure that undergraduate students do not attempt an excessive number of semester credit hours beyond the minimum number of required to complete the students' degree programs, Texas Southern University has implemented the following measures.

- TSU** All students are monitored for their academic progress and make intervention as needed. Mid-term grading is a service through in which faculty notify students and the advisors about students who are academically at risk in their courses at mid-point of that semester.

TSU All freshmen are required to meet with a professional academic advisor to plan their first-year coursework. Texas Southern University provides extensive academic advising at the department and college levels to insure that students have the specific information needed to help them graduate in a timely manner.

TSU Students who are on financial aid are required to maintain the institutions' Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy (SAP), which requires specified course completion ratio and specified grade point average.

3. To provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation, Texas Southern University provides the following services:

TSU Mandatory Advisement requires all students to receive registration clearance from their respective academic advisors before registration. The Banner system also monitors course sequencing to enforce pre-requisites and eliminate excess credit hours.

TSU The Online Catalog can be used to plan sufficient course loads necessary for graduation in a timely manner.

TSU The Co-hort Project contacts the student who has left the University for more than a year without earning a degree. The program specifically targets those students who have left the University for reasons that are not related to academics.

TSU Academic Support Services also provides free Supplement Instruction (SI) for students in selected academic courses that typically have a high incidence of deficiency grades.

4. 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, Texas Southern University has developed the following:

TSU TSU's On-line Degree Audit Program allows students to view which degree requirements have been met and which requirements have yet to be fulfilled. This tool can be used to confirm the students' progress and can be accessed by the advisor. It is fully integrated into Banner SIS system and available to students via MY WEB/ DO IT ONLINE.

TSU The On-line Degree Audit Program can also be used by prospective transfer students after they have submitted their entire official transcripts. Once the course evaluation is complete, the students view those degree requirements which have been met and those requirements yet to be fulfilled.

TSU The On-line Degree Audit Report is submitted when the student is applying for graduation.

5. To implement tuition policies that encourages timely graduation, Texas Southern University have implemented or reviewing the following:

TSU Tuition Rebate for Undergraduate Students was created by Senate Bill 1907, 75th Legislature and is authorized by 54.0065 of the Texas Education Code. It provides a \$1,000 rebate to students who complete baccalaureate studies with as few courses as possible.

TSU TSU new student scholarships are awarded and renewed only to students carrying a full-time semester credit hour load.

TSU The University is considering applying non-resident charges to students who take excessive hours over the minimum number of hours required for completion of the degree (Texas education Code 54.068). Non-resident charges can be applied also to those students who attempt a course more than twice (SB 1, III-251).

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

REPORT ON 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:

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

Degree Program	# Grads	Credits Attempted	Mean Semesters
Science and Math	44	166	10
Arts and Architecture	34	182	12
Business	68	170	11
Health	31	193	13
Social Sciences and Service	75	180	12
Technology	23	175	12
 Total Graduates	 275		

* Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

2. The specific efforts implemented to ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner include:
 - Course equivalencies and institutional articulation agreements are in place sufficiently to ensure that the courses students take at other institutions will transfer to Texas State. <http://em.tsu.edu/>
 - The Office of Testing, Research-Support and Evaluation Center provides important information to students about the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA). The office also maintains and administers credit policies for the College Board’s Advanced Placement Program (AP) and SAT-TI Subject Examinations, the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), the International Baccalaureate Program (IB), and departmental examinations. <http://em.tsu.edu/>

- Academic advisors in each of the university academic areas work with students each semester to review progress and select courses for the upcoming semester.
- Academic advisors and students participate in degree auditing to verify the student's progress toward graduation. The university has its online Degree Compliance Report whereby each student may ascertain his extent of compliance towards degree sought.
- Current degree programs and requirements are outlined in the University catalog.
- At summer and fall orientation, new students are counseled about the importance of taking sufficient course loads to graduate in a timely fashion. During orientation period students also learn where to turn for help and answers, connect with a wide array of campus services, meet faculty, staff and Texas Southern University students; get connected to campus technology resources, and share in Texas Southern University's rich traditions. <http://em.tsu.edu/>
- On campus housing is a highly successful undertaking that offers students the opportunity to live in a residential setting, with easy access to the university library and to support services. Retention and graduation rates for students living in the various university residential facilities are positively affected related to easy access to campus facilities and services.
- Student Support Services Center offers learning support resources to improve academic skills. Any student, from freshman to graduate level, can benefit from Texas Southern University's Student Support Services Center. Programs offered by Student Support Services include Supplemental instruction, subject-area tutorial services, subject content handouts, standardized test preparation.
- Texas Southern University also offers a free academic support service called The Bridge Builders Tutorial Program. It is open to all students and yet it targets

academic core courses in which students typically and presently have high occurrences of D, F and W grades. Student instructors often collaborate and standby to collaborate with faculty to provide reviews and study sessions that are tailored to the individual faculty member's course. Students generally perform better after participating in this bridge-builder effort.

- Sociology 211 is a course designed to orient new Texas Southern University students. The course encourages reflection upon the value and nature of a university education, as well as helping students to develop strategies for life-long learning. Course content includes class discussion, student participation, and involvement in the university community. University departments, speakers, and events are commonly used resources for SOC 211.
- Students must declare a major before they complete 60 semester credit hours.

3. To provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation.

- Academic advisors in each of the areas of the university work with students each semester to review their progress and select courses for the upcoming semester.
- Academic advisors and students use the “My Web Do It Online” university online program to verify the student's progress toward graduation; see <http://em.tsu.edu/>
- Current degree programs are outlined in the University catalog.
- At Summer Orientation, new students are counseled about the importance of taking sufficient course loads to graduate in a timely fashion
- All courses with prerequisites are flagged to ensure that students have completed course requirements necessary. This facilitates a higher success rate.