

# Texas Woman's University

## Timely Graduation Report

November, 2008

### Introduction

HB1172 requires that academic teaching institutions report timely graduation information to their governing boards. The report has two components:

1. Data regarding the number of semester credit hours attempted and the number of fall and spring semesters attended by students completing an undergraduate degree program.
2. Institutional efforts to promote timely graduation.

The attached report provides this data for FY 2006 and FY 2007.

### **TWU Timely Graduation Report 2008**

- **To ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner.**

TWU:

1. Has redesigned most major degree plans to 120 credit hours (effective Fall 2007).

2. Has increased the number of community college transfer articulation plans which assure that transfer students will be able to graduate in a timely manner and avoid taking courses that do not apply to their degrees.
  3. Maintains updated online lists of course equivalencies for community college courses.
  4. Accepts credit by examination (such as CLEP, AP, and IB) for many introductory courses.
  5. Offers dual credit courses to qualified area high school students.
  6. Offers a variety of online and summer courses to allow students the opportunity to progress toward the degree at a faster rate.
  7. Provides options for early completion of developmental math for students able to progress quickly toward readiness for college math.
  8. Implements an Early Alert to notify students of their danger of failing courses so that there is time for them to recover and pass the course.
  9. Awards New Student Scholarships only to students carrying a full-time semester credit hour load.
  10. Posts all degree plans in four-year format online under “Graduate on Time” within Undergraduate Studies.
  11. Posts link to Tuition Rebate program on “Graduate on Time” web page.
  12. Reviewed and revised policies that may be barriers to graduation on time (or without excessive debt).
  13. Hosts a “Graduation Extravaganza” event to allow students to complete at one event the several steps needed to prepare for graduation.
  14. Publishes in the General Catalog all graduation requirements.
  15. Provides a reminder within the automated degree audit system for students to apply for graduation after they have completed 90 credit hours.
  16. Provides learning communities and freshman seminar classes that increase freshman year course completion.
  17. Provides free tutoring to increase course pass rates in math, computer science, natural sciences, and writing through three tutoring centers.
- **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.**
    1. Students are allowed no more than 6 unexcused class drops.
    2. Students are
      - a. Notified when they have completed 120 hours of the limit on excess credit hours and encouraged to complete their degrees.
      - b. Notified in the semester during which they will reach the limit on excess credit hours.
      - c. Notified and assessed extra tuition for credit hours taken after they exceed the number of credits
    3. Academic departments are sent lists of students who are approaching or have reached excess hours in order that advising may be used to help students complete their degrees in a timely manner.

4. Students have access at all times to their transcripts and to the automated degree audit system so that they can monitor the hours taken toward their degrees.
5. Students are advised as entering students of the limits on credit hours for a degree.
6. The General Catalog includes policies explaining penalties for excess hours.
7. Transfer students who have attempted more than 72 lower division community college credits may request special permission to apply other credits when they have completed their degree program and core curriculum requirements.
8. Students in freshman seminar classes prepare four-year plans for their degrees which allow them to complete the degree within the credit hours for the degree.
9. TWU advertises the Rebate Plan to all students via print and electronic means and the application for the rebate is available on the TWU website.
10. TWU offers several “fast-track” degrees, allowing students to take courses during the senior year that also count toward the master’s degree completion – thus decreasing the amount of time to graduating with an advanced degree.

• **To provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation.**

1. All first-year students are required to see an advisor in order to register. Advisors provide information about graduating on time.
2. Students are now advised by the college of their major starting as freshmen in order to assure early planning and scheduling for degree completion.
3. Students enrolled in the freshman seminar are provided with a four year plan template and required to complete a draft four-year plan for graduating. Also in that course, discussions on planning for timely graduation are integrated with related topics such as managing financial aid, maintaining academic good standing, and working with career services in anticipation of graduation.
4. The Office of Financial Aid advises students of the advantages in taking more than the 12 semester credit hours required for full-time financial aid eligibility.
5. TWU advisors utilize degree plans designed for degree completion in four years. (Four year plans for most bachelor’s degrees are being posted on the TWU Undergraduate Studies website.)
6. TWU’s articulation agreements with community colleges present transfer students with plans for reaching degree completion in four years.
7. Advising events are held each year for freshmen and undecided students: Orientations, Freshman Forums to help first semester students prepare for registration and a “Pick-a-Major Fair” to assist students in learning about various majors and careers and shorten the time that undecided students take in beginning their major coursework.
8. Training sessions are held for faculty and staff academic advisors to acquaint them with current rules and online resources for advising students for on-time degree completion.

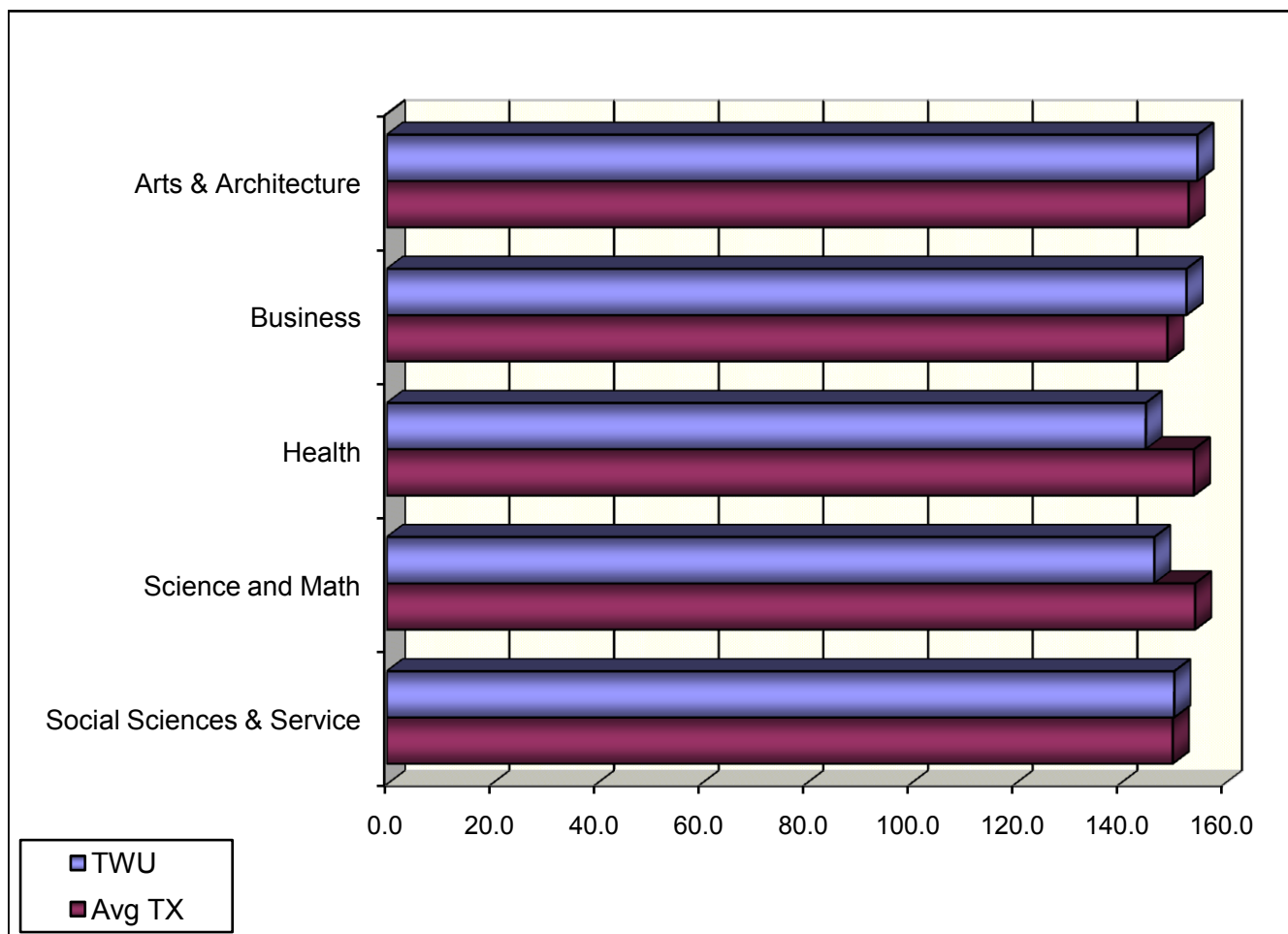
- **To develop an online student degree progress report which compares the courses taken and credit received by a student to the courses completed and needed for degree and graduation requirements for each academic term.**

1. TWU employs an on-line degree audit reporting system (DARS) to provide students and advisors current information on academic progress toward graduation. This system compares courses taken to those needed for degree and graduation requirements and will be accessible on-line at all times.
2. Advisors use the DARS system in advising students, assisting in the accuracy of key calculations needed for graduation requirements and in the various requirements for graduation.
3. The DARS system provides students with notice of time to apply for graduation after they complete 90 credits.

• **To implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation.**

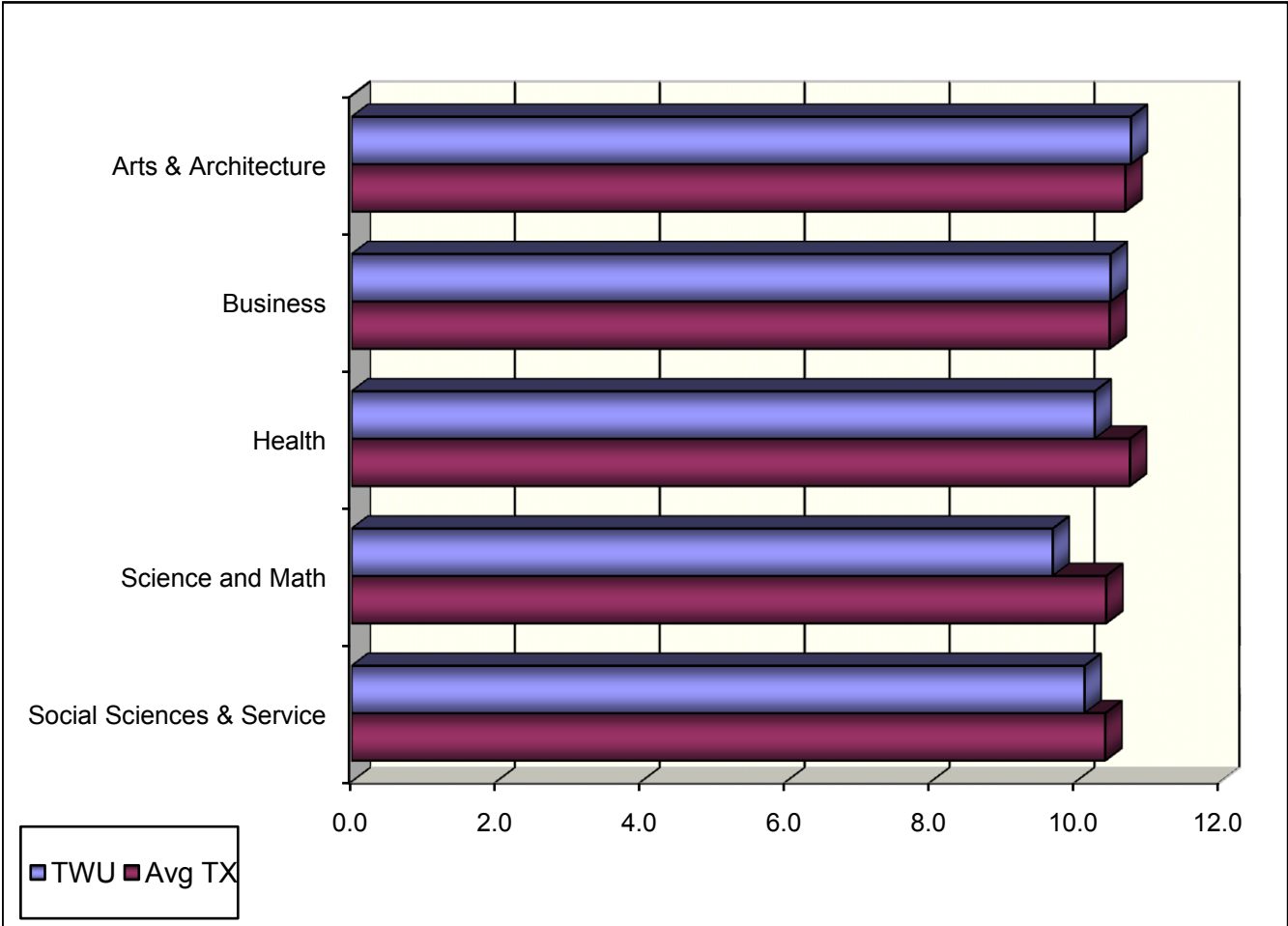
1. TWU implements the tuition rebate program was created by Senate Bill 1907, 75th Texas Legislature, to provide tuition rebate of \$1,000 that will provide a financial incentive for students to complete their baccalaureate within three credits of the number of credit hours required for their degree.
2. Students who repeat a course three or more times at TWU are charged out-of-state tuition rates for that course.
3. Students who enroll in excessive hours must pay nonresident tuition if they enroll in more than 45 credit hours above the credit hours required by their degree program in 2005 or 30 credit hours above their degree programs after 2006.

**Time to Graduation (Semester Credit Hours) by Program Area  
TWU Compared to Texas Average Semester Credit Hours  
FY 2007 Graduates**



Major	Arts & Architecture	Business	Health	Science and Math	Social Sciences & Service
<i>N</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>215</i>
<b>TWU</b>	154.9	152.8	145.1	146.7	150.5
<b>Avg TX</b>	153.3	149.2	154.3	154.5	150.2
<b>Diff.</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>-9.2</b>	<b>-7.8</b>	<b>0.3</b>

**Time to Graduation (Semesters) by Program Area  
TWU Compared to Texas Average Semesters  
FY 2007 Graduates**



Major	Arts & Architecture	Business	Health	Science and Math	Social Sciences & Service
<i>N</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>215</i>
<b>TWU</b>	10.8	10.5	10.3	9.7	10.1
<b>Avg TX</b>	10.7	10.5	10.7	10.4	10.4
<b>Diff.</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>-0.3</b>

Texas Woman's University

Academic Affairs

Timely Graduation Report

to the

Board of Regents

November 11, 2005

## Introduction

HB1172 requires that academic teaching institutions report timely graduation information to their governing boards. The report has two components:

1. Data regarding the number of semester credit hours attempted and the number of fall and spring semesters attended by students completing an undergraduate degree program.
2. Institutional efforts to promote timely graduation.

The attached report provides this data for FY2004. It includes only graduates who were first time freshmen in the ten year period back to FY1995.

Texas Woman's University  
**Timely Graduation Report**

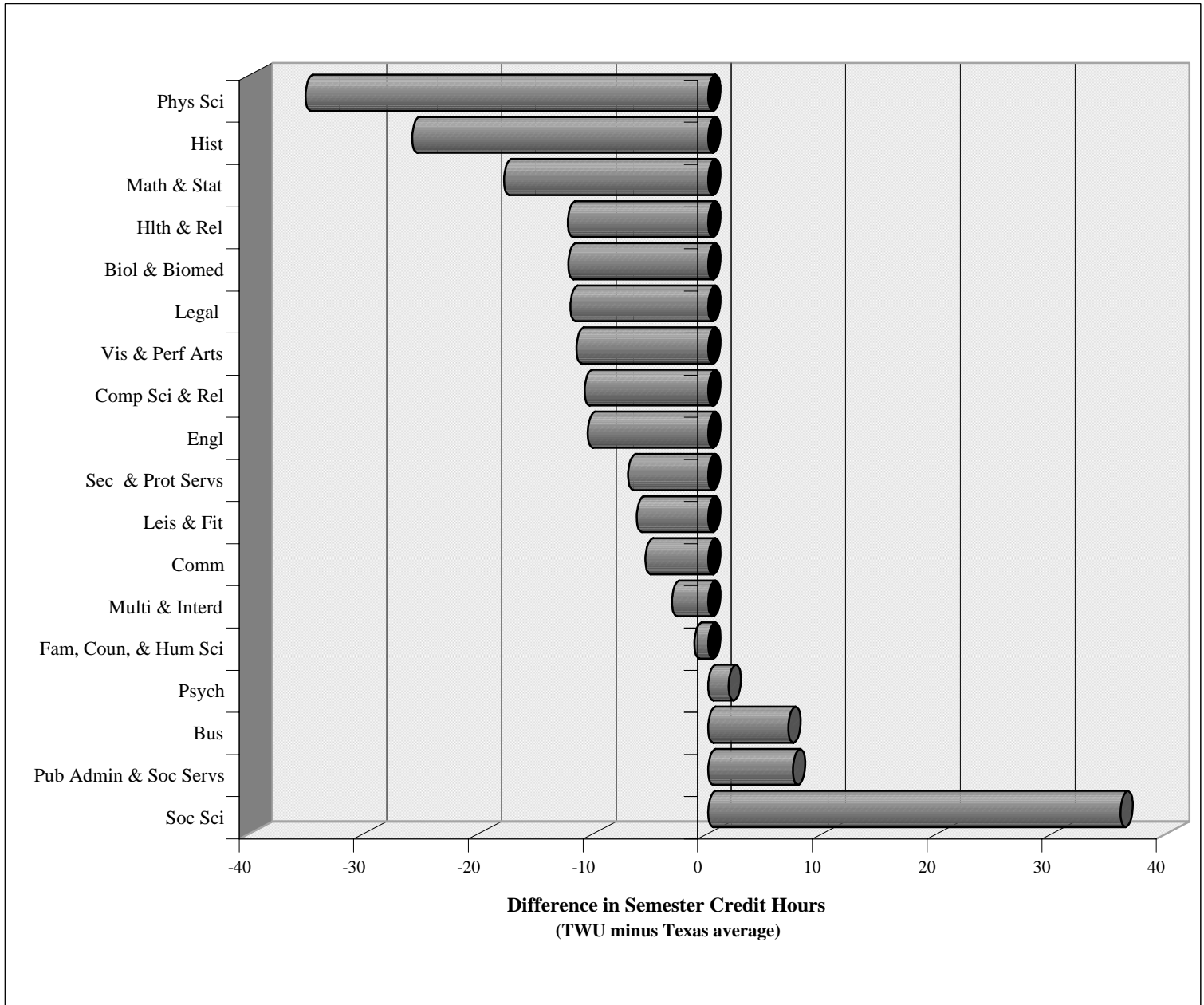
- To ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner.
  1. TWU accepts credit by examination (such as CLEP, AP, and IB) for many introductory courses.
  2. TWU offers dual credit courses to qualified area high school students.
  3. TWU offers a variety of summer courses to allow students the opportunity to progress toward the degree at a faster rate.
  4. TWU New Student Scholarships are awarded and renewed only to students carrying a full-time semester credit hour load.
  5. TWU does not limit the number of credits a student may take during a semester.
  
- 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
  1. TWU offers few minor areas of study.
  2. Students transferring to TWU from another institution who are core complete at that institution are not required to take additional credits for core completion at TWU.
  3. TWU advertises the Rebate Plan to all students via print and electronic means. The application for the Rebate Plan is available on the TWU website.
  4. TWU offers several "fast-track" degrees, allowing students to take courses during the senior year that also count toward the master's degree completion – thus decreasing the amount of time to graduating with an advanced degree.
  
- To provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation.
  1. TWU educates students at various events and through the freshman learning skills course - about carrying at least 15 semester credit hours in order to graduate in four years.
  
  2. Students enrolled in the learning skills course are provided with a four-year plan template and required to complete a draft four-year plan for graduating. Also in that course, discussions on planning for timely graduation are integrated with related topics such as managing financial aid, maintaining academic good standing, and working with career services in anticipation of graduation.

3. The Office of Financial Aid advises students of the advantages in taking more than the 12 semester credit hours required for full-time financial aid eligibility.
  4. TWU advisors utilize degree plans designed for degree completion in four years. (Four year plans for most bachelor's degrees are being posted on the TWU Undergraduate Studies website effective November 30, 2005 or sooner.)
  5. TWU's articulation agreements with community colleges demonstrate reaching degree completion in four years.
- 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.
    - TWU is currently developing an on-line degree audit reporting system (DARS) to provide students and advisors current information on academic progress toward graduation. This system will compare courses taken to those needed for degree and graduation requirements and will be accessible on-line at all times.
  - To implement tuition policies that encourage timely graduation.
    1. Students who repeat a course three or more times at TWU are charged out-of-state tuition rates for that course.
    2. Students who enroll in excessive hours (more than 45 credit hours above the credit hours required by their degree program in 2005) must pay nonresident tuition.

Program Groupings for Time to Degree Charts

Table Abbreviation	CIP Group	CIP Code	TWU Baccalaureate Programs
Bus	Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	52	Business Administration, Fashion Merchandising
Biol & Biomed	Biological and Biomedical Sciences	26	Biology, Molecular Biology
Comm	Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	9	Mass Communications
Comp Sci & Rel	Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	11	Computer Science
Engl	English Language and Literature/Letters	23	English
Fam, Couns, & Hum Psych	Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences	19	Child Development, Family & Consumer Sciences
Hlth & Rel	Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences	51	Communication Science, Dental Hygiene, Dietetics & Institutional Administration, Health Care Administration, Health Studies, Medical Technology, Music Therapy, Nursing, , Occupational Therapy, Speech/Language Pathology
Hist	History	54	History
Legal	Legal Professions and Studies	22	Government-Paralegal Concentration
Leis & Fit	Parks, Recreation, Leisure, & Fitness Studies	31	Kinesiology
Math & Stat	Mathematics and Statistics	27	Mathematics
Multi & Interd	Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	30	Interdisciplinary Studies, Nutrition
Phys Sci	Physical Sciences	40	Chemistry
Psych	Psychology	42	Psychology
Pub Admin & Soc Serv	Public Administration & Social Service Professions	44	Government – Government Service Concentration, Social Work
Sec & Prot Servs	Security & Protective Services	43	Criminal Justice
Social Sciences	Social Sciences	45	Government, Sociology
Vis & Perf Arts	Visual & Performing Arts	50	Art, Dance, Drama, Music, Fashion Design

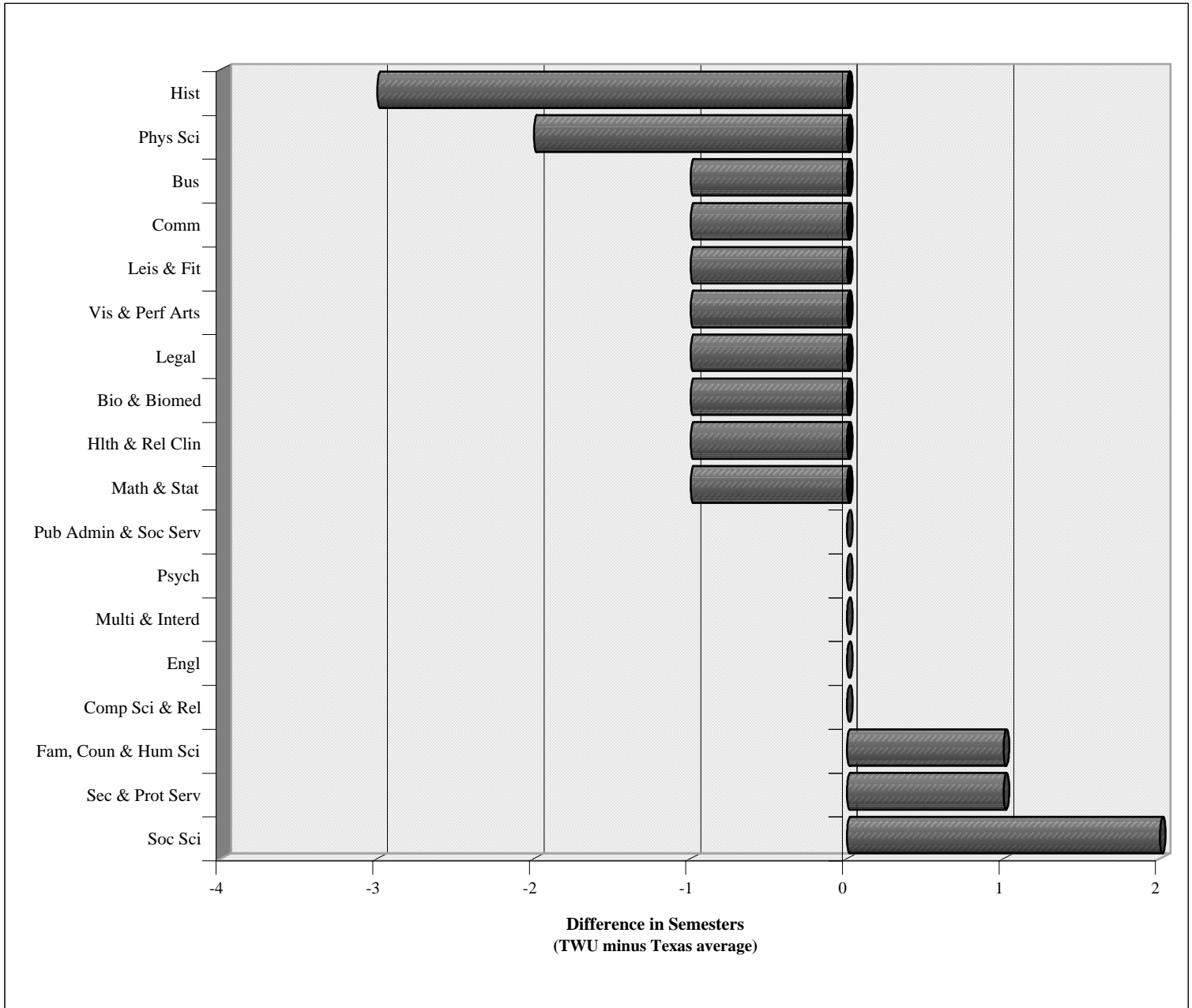
**Time to Graduation (SCH) by Discipline  
TWU Compared to Texas Average SCH  
FY 2004 Graduates\***



\*Includes only graduates who were first time freshmen in ten year period going back to FY 1995.

Major	Phys Sci	Hist	Math & Stat	Hlth & Rel	Biol & Biomed	Legal	Vis & Perf Arts	Comp Sci & Rel	Engl	Sec & Prot Servs	Leis & Fit	Comm	Multi & Interd	Fam, Coun, & Hum Sci	Psych	Bus	Pub Admin & Soc Servs	Soc Sci
<i>N</i>	4	14	9	223	18	7	35	9	18	6	25	13	46	17	28	46	19	7
<b>TWU</b>	122	127	140	143	142	138	151	147	140	146	157	144	155	155	151	160	161	187
<b>Avg TX</b>	157	153	158	155	154	150	162	158	151	153	163	149	158	156	149	153	154	151
<b>Diff.</b>	<b>-35</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>36</b>

**Time to Graduation (Semesters) by Discipline  
TWU Compared to Texas Average Semesters  
FY 2004 Graduates\***



\*Includes only graduates who were first time freshmen in ten year period going back to FY 1995.

Major	Hist	Phys Sci	Bus	Comm	Leis & Fit	Vis & Perf Arts	Legal	Bio & Biomed	Hlth & Rel Clin	Math & Stat	Pub Admin & Soc Serv	Psych	Multi & Interd	Engl	Comp Sci & Rel	Fam, Coun & Hum Sci	Sec & Prot Serv	Soc Sci
<i>N</i>	14	4	46	13	25	35	7	18	223	9	19	28	46	18	9	17	6	7
<b>TWU</b>	8	8	10	9	10	10	9	9	10	10	11	10	11	10	11	11	12	12
<b>Avg TX</b>	11	10	11	10	11	11	10	10	11	11	11	10	11	10	11	10	11	10
<b>Diff.</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>