



FOOTHILL COLLEGE

Institutional Research and Planning

DATE: June 12, 2012

TO: Chris White, Marketing & Communications

FROM: Elaine Kuo, College Researcher

RE: Average Time to Degree

Overview

Students who initially enrolled at Foothill College as first-time new students and awarded a certificate or associate's degree in 2009-10 were identified to determine how long it took for them to obtain their certificate and/or degree (Table 1).

Table 1. Foothill College Average Time to Completion based on Certificate and/or Degree Awarded in 2009-10.

Students	Average Months	Average Years
111	58.51	4.88

Students were broken down into three categories: those who first enrolled in Fall 2006 or later (four years or less to completion), Fall 2000 to Summer 2006 (between five to ten years to completion) and Summer 2000 and earlier (more than ten years to completion) (Table 2).

Table 2. Foothill College Average Time to Completion based on Initial Term of Enrollment.

Initial Term	Headcount	Average Months	Average Years
Fall 2006 or later	51	28.79	2.4
Fall 2000 to Summer 2006	48	64.12	5.34
Summer 2000 and earlier	12	163.5	13.63

There were 111 students identified, representing roughly a quarter of all students awarded a certificate and/or degree in 2009-10. On average, students who first enrolled in Fall 2006 or later took almost 2 ½ years to earn their certificate and/or degree. Students who first enrolled between Fall 2000 and Summer 2006 on average completed their certificate and/or degree requirements slightly over five years. If students who first enrolled in Summer 2000 or earlier were removed, the average amount of time to degree was almost four years (3.86 years or 46.28 months).

Methodology

Students included in this cohort entered Foothill College as first-time new students and received a certificate and/or degree in 2009-10. The first-time new student cohort was used to capture those who completed their coursework at Foothill and were less likely to have transfer credits. The number of months it took for each student to reach completion was summed. Average calculations for all students were conducted on a 12 month, not nine month cycle. Students were not identified by full-time/part-time status or based on concurrent enrollment.

Source

FHDA IR&P Debbie [Applicant Characteristics, Student Degree, Student Status, Term Table]