FOOTHILL COLLEGE
Institutional Research and Planning

DATE: January 6, 2017
TO: Carolyn Holcroft, Professor and Academic Senate President
          Andrew LaManque, Interim Vice President of Instruction & Institutional Research
FROM: Lisa Ly, Acting College Researcher
RE: Time to Degree and Certificate

Overview

As part of the Accreditation self-study, course scheduling and sequencing is assessed to ensure reasonable time to degree and certificate completion. This report provides time to degree by examining students who earned a degree for the first time in academic year 2016 and their first enrollment term at Foothill. Time to degree is measured in months and converted to years, and data is disaggregated by ethnicity and gender. The same methodology was repeated for certificate completion.

Median Time to Degree and Certificate Completion

- Among first-time award recipients in AY2016, the median time to degree and certificate completion was 4.2 and 3.2 years, respectively.
- Students with an AA took nearly a year longer than those with an AS, 4.7 vs. 4.0 years.
- Students with an AA-T or AS-T took about 4.0 years to earn their degree.
- Compared to a traditional associate degree, associate degree for transfer recipients obtained their degree in less time:
    - 4.7 years for AA vs. 4.0 years for AA-T; difference of 0.7 year or 8.4 months
    - 4.0 years for AS vs. 3.8 years for AS-T; difference of 0.2 year or 2.4 months
- Students with a certificate 45-89 Qtr comprised the majority of certificate recipients (84%) and they took 3.2 years to obtain their certificate.

Table 1: Median Time to Completion

	Headcount	Awards	No. of Years
Degree (AA)			
Associate in Arts	316	339	4.7
Associate in Arts-Transfer	212	223	4.0
Degree (AS)			
Associate in Science	251	260	4.0
Associate in Science-Transfer	93	95	3.8
Degree Total	872	917	4.2
Certificate of Achievement			
Certificate 18-23 Qtr	1	1	11.2
Certificate 24-26 Qtr	1	1	17.5
Certificate 27-44 Qtr	28	28	4.7
Certificate 45-89 Qtr	423	423	3.2
Certificate > 89 Qtr	49	49	2.0
Certificate Total	502	502	3.2

Median Time to Completion by Program

AA Completion by Program

- **AA degree:** General Studies Social Science accounted for the majority of AA degree recipients (46%) and students obtained this degree in 5.0 years.
- **AA-T degree:** Psychology for transfer accounted for the majority AA-T degree recipients (33%) and students obtained this degree in 4.2 years. Communication Studies for transfer followed behind (22%) and students obtained this degree in 4.0 years.

Table 2: Associate in Arts
Median Time to Completion by Program

	Degree and Program	Headcount	Percent	No. of Years
Associate in Arts				
1GSS	General Studies: Social Science	156	46%	5.0
1COS	Communication Studies	25	7%	4.0
1PSY	Psychology	22	6%	4.1
1SOC	Sociology	18	5%	5.5
1ACC	Accounting	16	5%	8.4
1BUS	Business Administration	12	4%	5.6
1CHD	Child Development	12	4%	10.4
1GID	Graphic & Interactive Design	12	4%	5.5
1ART	Art	7	2%	4.7
1MU1	Music Technology	7	2%	4.0
1ECO	Economics	6	2%	3.5
1JAP	Japanese	6	2%	3.5
1ENG	English	5	1%	5.2
1MU4	Music: General	5	1%	6.5
1THA	Theatre Arts	5	1%	3.9
1PHO	Photography	4	1%	8.6
1HIS	History	3	1%	7.2
1SPA	Spanish	3	1%	5.0
1THT	Theatre Technology	3	1%	2.8
1AN1	Anthropology	2	1%	8.9
1IBS	Business International Studies	2	1%	5.0
1PE	Physical Education	2	1%	3.1
1AHI	Art History	1	0%	1.8
1GSH	Humanities	1	0%	27.2
1PHI	Philosophy	1	0%	13.5
1POL	Political Science	1	0%	4.2
1SAR	Art-Studio Emphasis	1	0%	2.2
1SPE	Special Education	1	0%	21.9
Total		339	100%	4.7

Table 3: Associate in Arts-Transfer
Median Time to Completion by Program

	Degree and Program	Headcount	Percent	No. of Years
Associate in Arts-Transfer				
1PYT	Psychology for Transfer	74	33%	4.2
1CMT	Comm Studies for Transfer	49	22%	4.0
1ECT	Economics for Transfer	33	15%	3.2
1SOT	Sociology for Transfer	23	10%	4.0
1ANT	Anthropology for Transfer	11	5%	2.8
1HIT	History for Transfer	9	4%	6.0
1PST	Political Science for Transfer	9	4%	4.2
1KIT	Kinesiology for Transfer	8	4%	5.1
1EHT	English for Transfer	2	1%	4.2
1ATT	Art History for Transfer	1	0%	4.7
1BAT	Business Admin for Transfer	1	0%	5.0
1SHT	Spanish for Transfer	1	0%	2.4
1STT	Studio Arts for Transfer	1	0%	4.7
1TAT	Theatre Arts for Transfer	1	0%	4.2
Total		223	100%	4.0

AS Completion by Program

- **AS degree:** Primary Care Associate Program accounted for the majority of AS degree recipients (18%) and students obtained this degree in 2.2 years. Veterinary Technology followed behind (10%) and students obtained this degree in 4.3 years.

Table 4: Associate in Science
Median Time to Completion by Program

Degree and Program		Headcount	Percent	No. of Years
Associate in Science				
1PC	Primary Care Assoc Program	48	18%	2.2
1V T	Veterinary Techn	26	10%	4.3
1RET	Respiratory Therapy	23	9%	7.8
1GSC	General Studies: Science	19	7%	5.4
1R T	Radiologic Technology	19	7%	4.7
1CIS	Computer Science	17	7%	3.8
1D H	Dental Hygiene	17	7%	6.8
1DIM	Diagnostic Medical Sonography	15	6%	1.5
1EHD	Environmental Horticulture	13	5%	8.0
1BIO	Biological Sciences	11	4%	3.0
1D A	Dental Assisting	11	4%	5.8
1PAR	Paramedic	10	4%	4.3
1MAT	Mathematics	9	3%	4.2
1PT	Pharmacy Technician	8	3%	2.3
1EGN	Engineering	5	2%	4.0
1CHE	Chemistry	4	2%	9.9
1PEA	Athletic Injury Care	2	1%	10.8
1PHY	Physics	2	1%	10.2
1GES	Geography-AS	1	0%	2.6
Total		260	100%	4.0

- **AS-T degree:** Business Administration for transfer accounted for the majority of AS-T degree recipients (65%) and students obtained this degree in 3.8 years.

Table 5: Associate in Science-Transfer
Median Time to Completion by Program

Degree and Program		Headcount	Percent	No. of Years
Associate in Science-Transfer				
1BAT	Business Admin for Transfer	62	65%	3.8
1MTT	Mathematics for Transfer	14	15%	3.8
1CST	Computer Science for Transfer	10	11%	4.5
1EAT	Early Chld Educ for Transfer	7	7%	3.2
1PCT	Physics for Transfer	2	2%	5.6
Total		95	100%	3.8

Certificate Completion by Program

- **Certificate 27-44 Qtr:** 61% of certificate recipients are Dental Assisting students and they obtained this certificate in 3.8 years.
- **Certificate 45-89 Qtr:** 80% of certificate recipients are Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC-UC) students and they obtained this certificate in 3.2 years.

Table 6: Certificate of Achievement
Median Time to Completion by Program

Certificate and Program		Headcount	Percent	No. of Years
Certificate of Achievement (18-23 Qtr)				
1GI6	Geographic Inform Syst Tech II	1	100%	11.2
Total		1	100%	11.2
Certificate of Achievement (24-26 Qtr)				
1AFZ	Adaptive Fitness Therapy-CEA	1	100%	17.5
Total		1	100%	17.5
Certificate of Achievement (27-44 Qtr)				
1DAZ	Dental Assisting-CEA	17	61%	3.8
1GI3	Geog Info System-Analyst	5	18%	7.9
1MUZ	Music Technology-CEA	2	7%	7.0
1ACZ	Accounting-CEA	1	4%	2.5
1CPA	CPA Exam Prep-CEA	1	4%	19.7
1GI5	Geographic Inform Syst Tech I	1	4%	11.2
1MPT	Music Tech:Pro Tools- CEA	1	4%	33.7
Total		28	100%	4.7
Certificate of Achievement (45-89 Qtr)				
1ICU	CEA- IGETC UC	337	80%	3.2
1IDC	CSU General Education-Breadth	37	9%	4.0
1IGC	CEA_IGETC CSU	22	5%	4.4
1PTZ	Pharmacy Technician-CEA	17	4%	2.2
1EHZ	Envir Horticulture & Design-CEA	6	1%	7.6
1GIZ	Graphic & Interactive Dsgn-CEA	2	0%	3.1
1CH4	Program Supervisor & Mentoring	1	0%	5.9
1PAZ	Paramedic-CEA	1	0%	1.8
Total		423	100%	3.2
Certificate of Achievement (> 89 Qtr)				
1PCZ	Primary Care Assoc- CEA	49	100%	2.0
Total		49	100%	2.0

Degree Completion

Degree Completion by Starting Academic Year
- 69% of students started between AY2011 and AY2016 and obtained a degree in 3.2 years.
- 20% of students started between AY2005 and AY2010 and obtained a degree in 7.8 years.
- 11% of students started in AY1999 or prior and took at least 14.5 years to earn a degree.
- The starting academic year for the 547 students who started between AY2011 and AY2016 was disaggregated even further, and the majority of these students completed a degree in 3.0 years.
    - 2010-11 to 2011-12: 167 students; 5.0 years
    - 2012-13 to 2013-14: 303 students; 3.0 years
    - 2014-15 to 2015-16: 77 students; 1.8 years

Table 7: Median Time to Degree Completion by
Starting Academic Year

Starting Academic Year	Headcount	Percent	No. of Years
1974-75 to 1979-80	1	0%	37.5
1980-81 to 1985-86	5	1%	31.8
1986-87 to 1991-92	8	1%	25.9
1992-93 to 1997-98	15	2%	21.6
1998-99 to 2003-04	53	7%	14.5
2004-05 to 2009-10	160	20%	7.8
2010-11 to 2015-16	547	69%	3.2
Total	789	100%	4.2

Degree Completion by Ethnicity, Starting AY2011-16
Since the majority of degree recipients enrolled at Foothill starting in AY2011-16, this section of the report examines their time to degree completion by ethnicity.
- AA degree
    - Most recipients self-identified as White (36%) and Latino/a (23%).
    - The median time to an AA degree completion was 3.8 years.
    - Latino/a and White students took longer to earn an AA degree, 4.1 and 4.0 years, respectively.
- AA-T degree
    - Most recipients self-identified as White (29%) and Latino/a (26%).
    - The median time to an AA-T degree completion was 3.2 years.
    - White students took 4.0 years, or 9.6 months longer, to earn an AA-T degree.
- AS degree
    - Most recipients self-identified as White (40%) and Asian (28%).
    - The median time to an AS degree completion is 2.5 years.
    - Latino/students comprised the third largest ethnic group of AS degree recipients at 18%, and they took 2.2 years, or 3.6 fewer months, to earn an AS degree.
- AS-T degree
    - Most recipients self-identified as White (31%) and Asian (31%).
    - The median time to an AS-T degree completion was 3.2 years.
    - White and Latino/a students each took 3.8 years, or 7.2 months longer, to earn an AS-T degree.

Table 8: Median Time to Completion by Degree and Ethnicity,
Students Enrolled for First Time in AY2011-16

	Associate in Arts			Associate in Arts-Transfer			Associate in Science			Associate in Science-Transfer		
	Headcount	Percent	No. of Years	Headcount	Percent	No. of Years	Headcount	Percent	No. of Years	Headcount	Percent	No. of Years
African American	10	5%	2.8	2	1%	3.4	3	2%	3.2	1	1%	2.5
Asian	36	18%	3.5	42	25%	3.2	46	28%	2.5	23	31%	3.0
Filipino	9	5%	3.4	12	7%	3.2	13	8%	2.8	2	3%	1.9
Latino/a	45	23%	4.1	44	26%	3.2	30	18%	2.2	14	19%	3.8
White	72	36%	4.0	49	29%	4.0	65	40%	2.5	23	31%	3.8
Other	28	14%	2.9	20	12%	3.2	6	4%	2.8	11	15%	2.5
Total	200	100%	3.8	169	100%	3.2	163	100%	2.5	74	100%	3.2

Other includes Native American, Pacific Islander and decline to state.

Certificate Completion

Certificate Completion by Starting Academic Year
- 82% of students started between AY2011 and AY2016 and obtained a certificate in 2.9 years.
- 14% of students started between AY2005 and AY2010 and obtained a certificate in 7.2 years.
- 4% of students started in AY1999 or prior and took at least 15.0 years to earn a certificate.
- The starting academic year for the 413 students who started between AY2011 and AY2016 was disaggregated even further, and the majority of these students completed a degree in 2.8 years.
  - 2010-11 to 2011-12: 105 students; 4.7 years
  - 2012-13 to 2013-14: 229 students; 2.8 years
  - 2014-15 to 2015-16: 79 students; 1.8 years

Table 9: Median Time to Certificate Completion by
Starting Academic Year

Starting Academic Year	Headcount	Percent	No. of Years
1980-81 to 1985-86	2	0%	33.2
1986-87 to 1991-92	0	0%	0.0
1992-93 to 1997-98	5	1%	19.5
1998-99 to 2003-04	10	2%	15.0
2004-05 to 2009-10	71	14%	7.2
2010-11 to 2015-16	413	82%	2.9
Total	501	100%	3.2

Certificate Completion by Ethnicity, Starting AY2011-16
Since the majority of certificate recipients enrolled at Foothill starting in AY2011-16, this section of the report examines their time to certificate completion by ethnicity. Only certificate 45-89 Qtr was examined as this certificate group comprised the majority of all certificate recipients.
- Most recipients self-identified as Asian (48%) and Other (22%).
- The median certificate completion was 3.0 years, and there was no difference in time to completion observed among the ethnic groups.