

# **Time to Degree Analysis**

*Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research*

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this study is to determine the average number of semesters a student is enrolled before earning an Associate degree at City, Mesa and Miramar colleges.

## **Methodology**

Students who earned an Associate degree in 2000 were matched back to Fall 1986. The average, maximum, and minimum number of semesters was calculated excluding summer (Table 1) and including summer (Table 2). The averages were also calculated by college where degree was earned. Semesters where the student dropped/withdrew all courses were not included (note: this information was not available prior to Summer 1991).

## **Results**

**Table 1: Average Number of Semesters Excluding Summer**

	N	Minimum Semesters	Maximum Semesters	Average Number of Semesters
City	698	1	23	8.55
Mesa	977	1	24	7.18
Miramar	450	1	22	8.36
Total	2,125	1	24	7.88

N = Number of Associate Degrees awarded in 2000

**Table 2: Average Number of Semesters Including Summer**

	N	Minimum Semesters	Maximum Semesters	Average Number of Semesters
City	698	1	29	10.75
Mesa	977	1	27	8.73
Miramar	450	1	27	10.22
Total	2,125	1	29	9.71

N = Number of Associate Degrees awarded in 2000

Excluding summer, the average number of semesters it takes students to get their Associates degree is 8 semesters. The minimum is 1 semester and the maximum is 24 semesters. In other words, it takes students on average 4 years to earn an Associate degree. When summer semesters are included, the average number of semesters it takes a student to receive an Associate degree is 10. The maximum number of semesters a student was enrolled including summer is 29. Of the 2,125 students who earned Associates degrees in 2000, 374 (17.6%) of these students did not enroll in a summer semester.

### **Limitations**

Note that this data is duplicated so if a student receives more than one associate degree they are counted more than once. Limited data is available prior to Summer 1991, therefore if a student dropped or withdrew from all courses prior to Summer 1991 the semester was still used in the calculation. Semesters before Fall 1986 were not included in analysis, which could underestimate the averages.

## Time to Degree by Ethnicity

<b>Number of Semesters Excluding Summer</b>									
	City		Mesa		Miramar		Total		
	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	
American Indian	5	8.20	7	6.57	5	8.60	17	7.65	
Asian	73	9.56	125	7.07	73	8.64	271	8.17	
African American	157	9.07	57	7.98	29	8.00	243	8.69	
White	241	7.54	534	7.01	217	8.40	992	7.44	
Hispanic	136	9.28	112	7.48	41	9.46	289	8.61	
Filipino	42	9.10	59	7.54	63	7.63	164	7.98	
Unknown	17	8.29	33	7.30	5	7.40	55	7.62	
Other	23	7.43	45	7.48	15	7.87	83	7.54	
Pacific Islander	4	8.00	5	4.40	2	4.00	11	5.64	
<b>Total</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>8.55</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>7.18</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>8.36</b>	<b>2125</b>	<b>7.88</b>	
<b>Number of Semesters Including Summer</b>									
	City		Mesa		Miramar		Total		
	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	N	Average	
American Indian	5	9.80	7	8.14	5	10.00	17	9.81	
Asian	73	12.01	125	8.98	73	11.40	271	10.45	
African American	157	11.63	57	9.75	29	9.93	243	10.99	
White	241	9.38	534	8.46	217	10.02	992	9.03	
Hispanic	136	11.57	112	9.15	41	11.00	289	10.54	
Filipino	42	11.38	59	9.25	63	9.63	164	9.95	
Unknown	17	10.82	33	8.70	5	8.80	55	9.36	
Other	23	9.22	45	8.80	15	9.67	83	9.07	
Pacific Islander	4	10.75	5	5.20	2	4.50	11	7.09	
<b>Total</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>10.75</b>	<b>977</b>	<b>8.73</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>10.22</b>	<b>2125</b>	<b>9.71</b>	

N = number of students who earned Associate degree in 2000.

Prepared by Institutional Research, 6/11/01