

Time to Degree at COM Degrees Awarded in Academic Year 2015-2016

One of COM's strategic planning objectives is to decrease time-to-degree. On average, students take more than six years to complete a degree. In the *Strategic Plan 2015-2018*, the College set a performance target to reduce that time to 5.5 years. It will take a few years before we can determine if activities we're putting in place influence this long-term outcome.

Even so, as Table 1 shows, the average time for all degrees did decline a bit in 2015-2016. Students pursuing AA-T and AS-T degrees finish them in less time than do students who are working toward an AA or AS.

Table 1. Average Time to Degree in Years by Degree Type
Academic Years 2012-2013 through 2015-2016

Degree Type	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Average terms enrolled	Median terms enrolled
					(2015-16 only)	(2015-16 only)
AA	6.0	7.0	6.6	7.6	9.4	9.0
AS	7.9	8.6	8.4	6.8	9.4	8.5
AA-Transfer	6.0	3.1	4.3	4.8	7.6	6.0
AS-Transfer	6.1	6.1	5.6	4.3	6.6	6.5
All Degrees	6.5	7.2	6.8	6.6	8.8	8.0

Table 2 lists average and median time to degree in years by program and degree type. A majority of degrees awarded in 2015-2016 were in four programs: Social/Behavioral Science, Nursing, Natural Science, and Business Administration.

Table 2. Average and Median Time to Degree by Degree Type and Program, 2015-2016

Award Type and Program	N	Average years	Median years	Average terms enrolled	Median terms enrolled
AA Art	6	8.3	6.8	13.2	11.0
AA Business Administration	*	6.0	6.0	12.0	12.0
AA Dance	*	14.3	14.0	9.3	9.5
AA Drama	*	4.7	4.0	9.3	8.0
AA French	7	10.2	5.5	9.3	8.0
AA LA: Communication Studies	5	9.8	6.0	10.0	12.0
AA LA: Lang. Arts and Humanities	12	7.3	4.5	9.2	8.0
AA LA: Social & Behavioral Sc.	61	6.5	5.0	9.0	9.0
AA LA: Visual and Performing Arts	*	4.3	4.3	8.5	8.5
AA Liberal Arts: Natural Science	32	7.0	4.8	8.9	9.0
AA Mathematics	*	3.0	3.0	6.3	6.0
AA Music	*	20.1	17.8	12.5	11.5
AA Physical Education & Health	*	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0

Table 2. Average and Median Time to Degree by Degree Type and Program, 2015-2016
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Award Type and Program	N	Average years	Median years	Average terms enrolled	Median terms enrolled
AA Spanish	20	8.3	5.0	10.6	10.0
AA-T Anthropology	5	3.5	3.0	6.6	6.0
AA-T Communication	8	3.8	2.0	5.1	4.0
AA-T Economics	*	4.5	4.5	8.0	8.0
AA-T English	6	3.6	3.3	7.2	6.5
AA-T History	*	7.1	6.3	11.5	11.5
AA-T Political Science	8	6.8	5.0	9.1	9.0
AA-T Psychology	17	5.0	4.0	7.5	8.0
AA-T Sociology	7	3.6	3.0	7.1	6.0
AA-T Spanish	*	9.5	9.5	13.0	13.0
AS Administration of Justice	*	5.0	5.0	9.5	9.5
AS Applied Accounting	*	10.3	10.3	15.5	15.5
AS Auto Master Repair Technician	*	3.3	3.3	6.5	6.5
AS Biology	*	8.5	7.5	13.5	14.5
AS Business Management	*	3.0	3.0	6.0	6.0
AS Computer Information Systems	*	7.7	6.0	10.7	11.0
AS Dental Assisting: Registered	5	3.3	3.0	6.2	6.0
AS ELND Org Farming and Gardening	*	8.0	8.0	11.0	11.0
AS Early Childhood Education	5	10.7	7.0	14.2	14.0
AS Medical Assist: Admin & Clinical	*	11.4	10.5	8.8	9.5
AS Medical Assist: Administrative	*	5.0	5.0	10.0	10.0
AS Medical Assist: Clinical	*	4.5	4.5	9.0	9.0
AS Multi Studies: Authoring	*	8.0	8.0	13.0	13.0
AS Multi Studies: Entertainment	*	2.5	2.5	5.0	5.0
AS Physical Science	9	3.3	3.0	6.4	6.0
AS Real Estate	*	11.5	11.5	13.5	13.5
AS Registered Nursing	35	7.0	4.5	9.0	8.0
AS-T Admin of Justice	5	3.6	3.0	6.8	6.0
AS-T Business Admin	31	4.5	4.0	6.6	7.0
AS-T Mathematics	*	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0
AS-T Physics	*	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0

*Suppressed—cell size less than 5