
Baccalaureate Graduates and Semester Credit Hours

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
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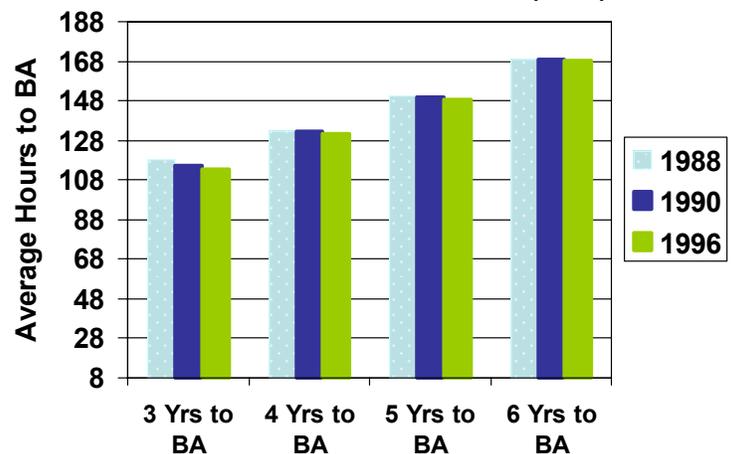


Students who take longer to graduate from a Texas public university enroll in a greater number of semester credit hours (SCH) while earning the same baccalaureate credential, according to a comparison of data for first-time, full-time students who initially enrolled in 1988, 1990, and 1996. Students from those cohorts who graduated in four years enrolled in an average of 132.6, 132.4 and 131.3 SCH, respectively. Students from those cohorts who graduated in six years enrolled in 169 SCH (1998 and 1990 cohorts) and 168.1 SCH (1996 cohort).

The average semester course hours¹ (SCH) a student enrolls in to earn a baccalaureate degree has not changed over time. This was determined by comparing first-time full-time students who initially enrolled in 1988, 1990, and 1996 and completed a baccalaureate degree within six years of enrollment.

- A baccalaureate degree typically requires 120 to 140 SCH, depending upon the major, or approximately eight 15-hour semesters.
- Students who take longer to earn baccalaureate degrees enroll in fewer SCH per semester, on average. For example, students from the 1996 cohort who graduated in four years enrolled in 12.4 SCH per semester (including summer semesters), on average. Students from the same cohort who graduated within six years (including summer semesters) took 11.7 SCH per semester, on average. Data for the 1988 and 1990 cohorts show similar results.

Average Credit Hours Enrolled to Earn a Baccalaureate (BA)



¹ Average semester course hours (SCH) represent those hours in which a student enrolled (although not necessarily completed) and the state funded in fall, spring, and summer semesters. Students enrolled for at least 12 semester credit hours (SCH) are considered full-time. All courses attempted at public institutions are included in calculating SCH; baccalaureate degrees awarded from a university other than the initial university of record are included in determining graduation rates. Students are tracked as long as they are enrolled in a public institution in Texas. Student data is gathered and reported according to standards identified for IPEDS by the National Center of Educational Statistics.

- Members of the 1988, 1990, and 1996 cohorts who graduated in four years enrolled in an average of 132.6, 132.4 and 131.3 SCH, respectively. Of those who graduated in six years, the 1988 and 1990 cohorts enrolled in an average of 169 SCH, and the 1996 cohort enrolled in an average of 168.1 SCH.

- ▶ For information² regarding this report or to suggest topics for future reports, contact Rissa S. Potter, Ph.D., (512) 427-6124, or Rissa.Potter@thecb.state.tx.us .

- ▶ This Special Interest Brief, and other related reports, are available at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/DataAndStatistics/> .

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