

An Analysis of UW-Madison Undergraduates
Who Completed a Degree in Three Years or Less

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November 29, 2004

A total of 29,873 Bachelor's degrees were awarded by UW-Madison during the period from Fall 1999 through Summer 2004:

Degree Completion Term	Bachelor's Degrees	Student's Entrance Attributes				
		Not First Degree	Entered Prior to Summer 1985	Entered as a Transfer	Admit Type Unknown	Entered as a 1st Year Student
Fall 1999	1,562	14	6	442	1	1,099
Spring 2000	3,355	20	15	658	1	2,661
Summer 2000	757	8	8	209	1	531
Fall 2000	1,634	14	19	409	1	1,191
Spring 2001	3,594	35	15	664	2	2,878
Summer 2001	755	11	2	179	0	563
Fall 2001	1,531	18	8	351	5	1,149
Spring 2002	3,673	36	8	678	7	2,944
Summer 2002	786	13	5	195	2	571
Fall 2002	1,616	9	12	392	3	1,200
Spring 2003	3,707	40	12	749	5	2,901
Summer 2003	790	4	7	222	2	555
Fall 2003	1,583	12	8	395	1	1,167
Spring 2004	3,802	31	10	718	6	3,037
Summer 2004	728	3	6	184	1	534
Total	29,873	268	141	6,445	38	22,981

A portion of these degrees are excluded from this analysis, for these reasons:

- 268 degrees were not the student's first UW-Madison degree. In some cases, the other degree had been awarded in a prior term. In other cases, the student earned multiple degrees in the same term. In this latter case, only one of the student's Bachelor's degrees was retained for this analysis.
- 141 degrees were awarded to students who first entered UW-Madison prior to Summer 1985. These cases are excluded because
 - Much of the subsequent analysis will examine information about each student in each term during their undergraduate career, including which terms they were enrolled, their credit loads, declared majors, and course selections.
 - Information for terms prior to Summer 1985 is not available in the retention tables of the data warehouse. However, it is possible to obtain this information directly from ISIS if this becomes a priority.
- 6,445 degrees were awarded to students who first entered UW-Madison as undergraduate transfer students. The purpose of this analysis is to examine the conditions under which students can complete a degree *at UW-Madison* within three years of graduating from high school. By definition, transfer students have attended a post-secondary institution other than UW-Madison.
- 38 degrees were awarded to students for whom it is unknown whether they entered as transfer students or as first-year students.

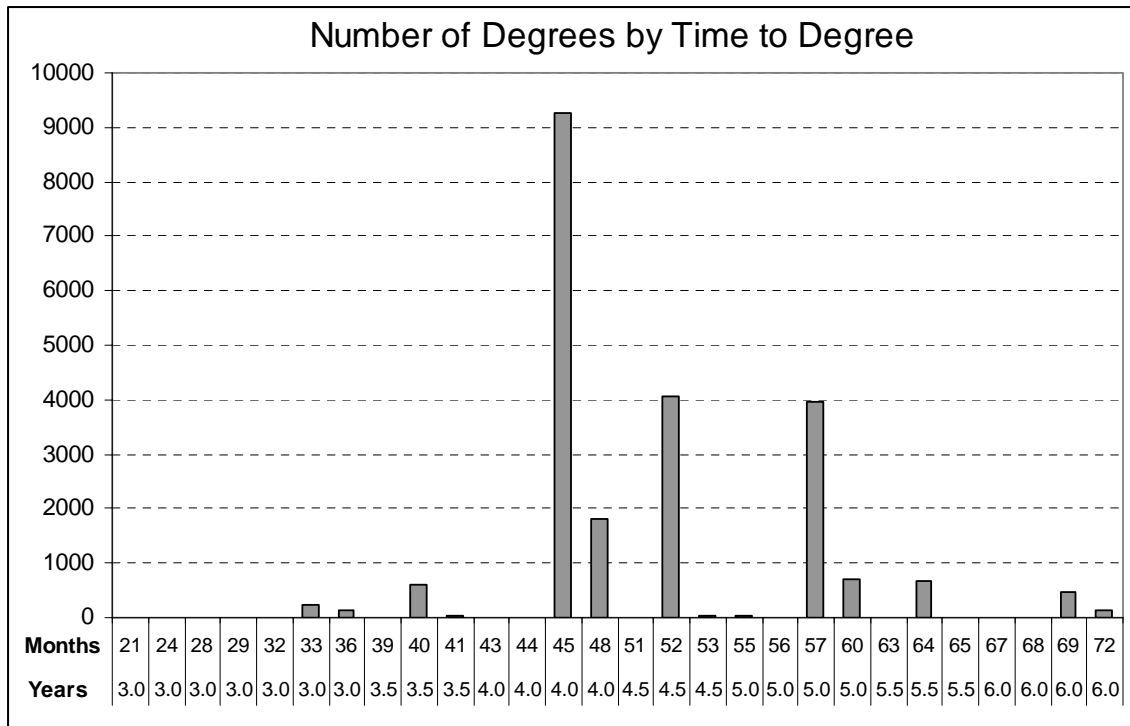
The exclusion of the above groups leaves a study population of 22,981 Bachelor’s degree recipients who entered UW-Madison as first-year undergraduates. This latter group includes 189 students who were special students enrolled at UW-Madison prior to becoming first-year undergraduates. For purposes of this analysis, the average 1.1 years which elapsed from their entrance as special students to their start as undergraduates will be ignored. Time to degree for this population will be based solely on their time as undergraduates, which averaged 4.3 years:

Average Number of Elapsed Calendar Years		
From Entrance as Special to Start as Undergraduate	From Start as Undergraduate to Receipt of Degree	Total Time to Degree
1.1	4.3	5.5

The degree recipients in this analysis include many first-year students who enter UW-Madison with transfer credits despite the fact they have not matriculated at a post-secondary institution since high school graduation. Designation as a first-year student is not dependent on the amount of transfer work gained as long as the college/university course work was taken *while the applicant was still in high school*. Transfer work gained prior to graduating from high school is becoming popular. Some students complete their entire senior year of high school, and sometimes even parts of their junior year, at a local college or university because they have exhausted their high school's curriculum.

In the balance of this discussion, time to degree will be expressed as years to degree. Whenever intervals of “years to degree” are presented, they indicate time to degree *rounded up* to the next ½ year. However, when *average* time to degree is tabulated, it is not based on rounded time values.

A total of 22,221 degrees included in this analysis were completed within six years or less. The following chart shows the distribution of these degrees by “time to degree”, expressed in both calendar months and calendar *year intervals*. Graduation in the 45th month (the modal level for this distribution) represents the traditional spring graduation in the senior year. As shown in the chart, the time to degree interval labeled “4.0” also includes students who graduated in the summer of their fourth year (in the 48th month). The time to degree interval labeled “3.0” actually includes *all* degrees completed within 3 years *or less*.



The degree recipients included in the analysis originate from a large number of different entrance cohorts, as shown below.

Year	Number of Degree Recipients											
	by Term of Entrance as a First-Year Undergraduate			By Years to Degree								
	Fall	Spring	Summer	3.0 or less	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	Over 6.0	
1985-86	13	1										14
1986-87	12		1									13
1987-88	10	1										11
1988-89	26	1										27
1989-90	31	1	3									35
1990-91	43											43
1991-92	50		3									53
1992-93	81	3	2									86
1993-94	135	6	5								4	142
1994-95	330	17	16					15	139	110		99
1995-96	1,939	30	30			17	795	829	154	118		86
1996-97	4,199	35	31	6	102	2078	829	914	126	125		85
1997-98	4,650	39	38	79	134	2265	839	1061	154	128		66
1998-99	4,348	42	22	74	125	2175	823	989	127	99		
1999-00	4,086	32	7	71	124	2205	820	905		1		
2000-01	2,560	12	1	79	154	2340						
2001-02	88			88								
2002-03	1			1								

The average time to degree was 4.3 elapsed calendar years. A small percentage of the degree recipients were able to finish within three years. Women are more likely to finish early.

Years to Degree	Number of Degree Recipients			Percent of Degree Recipients		
	Women	Men	Total	Women	Men	Total
3.0 or less	233	165	398	1.8	1.6	1.7
3.5	408	231	639	3.2	2.2	2.8
4.0	6,898	4,182	11,080	54.5	40.5	48.2
4.5	2,184	1,922	4,106	17.2	18.6	17.9
5.0	2,082	2,631	4,713	16.4	25.5	20.5
5.5	308	392	700	2.4	3.8	3.0
6.0	234	351	585	1.8	3.4	2.5
Over 6.0	317	443	760	2.5	4.3	3.3
Total	12,664	10,317	22,981	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average Years to Degree	4.2	4.5	4.3			

Targeted Minority students are less likely to finish early.

Years to Degree	Number of Degree Recipients			Percent of Degree Recipients			Percent Targeted Minority
	Targeted Minority	Other	Total	Targeted Minority	Other	Total	
3.0 or less	11	387	398	1.2	1.8	1.7	2.8
3.5	10	629	639	1.1	2.9	2.8	1.6
4.0	335	10,745	11,080	35.6	48.8	48.2	3.0
4.5	147	3,959	4,106	15.6	18.0	17.9	3.6
5.0	264	4,449	4,713	28.1	20.2	20.5	5.6
5.5	50	650	700	5.3	2.9	3.0	7.1
6.0	38	547	585	4.0	2.5	2.5	6.5
Over 6.0	86	674	760	9.1	3.1	3.3	11.3
Total	941	22,040	22,981	100.0	100.0	100.0	4.1
Average Years to Degree	4.8	4.3	4.3				

Students who are assessed non-resident tuition are more likely to finish early.

Years to Degree	Number of Degree Recipients				Percent of Degree Recipients			
	Non-Resident	Wisconsin Resident	Minnesota Compact	Total	Non-Resident	Wisconsin Resident	Minnesota Compact	Total
3.0 or less	148	215	35	398	2.7	1.4	1.4	1.7
3.5	214	365	60	639	3.9	2.4	2.4	2.8
4.0	3,457	6,309	1,314	11,080	63.6	41.9	52.6	48.2
4.5	672	2,966	468	4,106	12.4	19.7	18.7	17.9
5.0	609	3,608	496	4,713	11.2	24.0	19.9	20.5
5.5	97	554	49	700	1.8	3.7	2.0	3.0
6.0	95	451	39	585	1.7	3.0	1.6	2.5
Over 6.0	146	577	37	760	2.7	3.8	1.5	3.3
Total	5,438	15,045	2,498	22,981	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average Years to Degree	4.1	4.4	4.2	4.3				

Almost two-thirds of degree recipients confined their undergraduate careers to a single school/college. Those who changed their school/college tended to take longer to finish.

Years to Degree	Number of Primary School/Colleges During Undergraduate Career					Total	Average # of Schools
	1	2	3	4			
3.0 or less	316	81	1			398	1.21
3.5	467	160	12			639	1.29
4.0	7,562	3,345	169	4		11,080	1.33
4.5	2,422	1,557	125	2		4,106	1.44
5.0	2,632	1,882	192	7		4,713	1.49
5.5	372	288	38	2		700	1.53
6.0	313	232	37	3		585	1.54
Over 6.0	427	288	44	1		760	1.50
Total	14,511	7,833	618	19		22,981	1.40
Percent	63.1	34.1	2.7	0.1		100.0	
Avg. Years to Degree	4.3	4.4	4.8	5.0		4.3	

About 70 percent of degree recipients eventually completed all of the majors they declared during their undergraduate careers. In contrast, students who dropped majors they started tended to take longer to finish.

Years to Degree	Number of Majors Discarded During Undergraduate Career						Total	Average # of Discarded Majors
	0	1	2	3	4	5		
3.0 or less	305	84	6	3			398	0.26
3.5	488	132	17	2			639	0.27
4.0	8,327	2,394	334	23	1	1	11,080	0.28
4.5	2,871	1,045	172	16	2		4,106	0.35
5.0	2,934	1,432	307	36	4		4,713	0.46
5.5	416	216	59	9			700	0.52
6.0	348	183	47	6	1		585	0.51
Over 6.0	428	257	61	12	2		760	0.56
Total	16,117	5,743	1,003	107	10	1	22,981	0.35
<i>Percent</i>	<i>70.1</i>	<i>25.0</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	
Avg. Years to Degree	4.2	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.4	4.0	4.3	

Students who complete 2 or 3 majors are just as likely to graduate within three years as students who complete only one major.

Years to Degree	Number of Majors Completed with Degree				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Number of Degree Recipients					
3.0 or Less	312	81	5		398
3.5	492	138	9		639
4.0	8,714	2,235	127	4	11,080
4.5	3,214	823	68	1	4,106
5.0	3,776	855	75	7	4,713
5.5	596	92	9	3	700
6.0	509	70	6		585
Over 6.0	686	67	7		760
Total	18,299	4,361	306	15	22,981
Average Years to Degree					
	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.6	4.3
Percent of Degree Recipients					
3.0 or Less	1.7	1.9	1.6	0.0	1.7
3.5	2.7	3.2	2.9	0.0	2.8
4.0	47.6	51.2	41.5	26.7	48.2
4.5	17.6	18.9	22.2	6.7	17.9
5.0	20.6	19.6	24.5	46.7	20.5
5.5	3.3	2.1	2.9	20.0	3.0
6.0	2.8	1.6	2.0	0.0	2.5
Over 6.0	3.7	1.5	2.3	0.0	3.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Students who finished in three years or less enrolled for an average of one summer session during their undergraduate careers. This is near the average number of summer sessions for the entire population of 22,981 degree recipients. However, students who finished early were “stopped out” for fewer terms on average.

Years to Degree	Average Number of Terms Student Was Enrolled				Average Number of Terms Student Stopped Out Or Withdrew During Undergraduate Career			
	Fall	Spring	Summer	Total	Fall	Spring	Summer	Total
3.0 or less	2.9	2.9	1.0	6.8	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.4
3.5	3.9	3.0	0.8	7.8	0.0	0.0	2.2	2.2
4.0	4.0	3.9	0.8	8.7	0.0	0.1	2.3	2.5
4.5	4.9	3.9	0.9	9.8	0.1	0.1	3.1	3.2
5.0	4.9	4.9	1.0	10.8	0.1	0.1	3.1	3.3
5.5	5.6	4.7	1.3	11.6	0.3	0.3	3.7	4.2
6.0	5.3	5.3	1.3	11.9	0.6	0.5	3.8	5.0
Over 6.0	5.9	5.4	1.6	12.9	2.7	2.8	6.2	11.7
Total	4.5	4.2	0.9	9.6	0.2	0.2	2.8	3.2

The vast majority of students who finish early refrain from “stopping out” in fall or spring terms.

Years to Degree	Number of Fall or Spring Terms When Student "Stopped Out" or Withdrew											Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Over 10		
3.0 or less	96	4											100
3.5	96	4											100
4.0	88	11	1										100
4.5	88	10	2										100
5.0	85	11	3	1									100
5.5	67	16	12	4	1								100
6.0	47	18	20	9	4	1	1						100
Over 6.0	13	11	11	9	9	7	6	4	6	4	4	15	100
All Degree Recipients	83	11	3	1	1								100

In most schools and colleges, it is possible for some students to finish early.

Years to Degree	School or College Awarding Degree											Total
	Un-known	ALS	BUS	EDU	EGR	HEC	L&S	MED	MSN	NUR	PHM	
Number of Degree Recipients												
3.0 or less		26	45	8	21	2	294			2		398
3.5		25	69	14	35	18	477			1		639
4.0		727	1,401	513	520	549	7,149	28		169	24	11,080
4.5		299	638	390	523	276	1,947	1		32		4,106
5.0	1	387	546	508	1,011	273	1,849	37		87	14	4,713
5.5		51	45	144	154	28	259	1	1	5	12	700
6.0		79	34	76	88	31	258	6		8	5	585
Over 6.0		72	27	71	69	29	478	6		6	2	760
Total	1	1,666	2,805	1,724	2,421	1,206	12,711	79	1	310	57	22,981
Avg. Years to Degree												
	4.8	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.9	5.3	4.3	4.6	4.3
Percent of Degree Recipients												
3.0 or less	0	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	2
3.5	0	2	2	1	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	3
4.0	0	44	50	30	21	46	56	35	0	55	42	48
4.5	0	18	23	23	22	23	15	1	0	10	0	18
5.0	100	23	19	29	42	23	15	47	0	28	25	21
5.5	0	3	2	8	6	2	2	1	100	2	21	3
6.0	0	5	1	4	4	3	2	8	0	3	9	3
Over 6.0	0	4	1	4	3	2	4	8	0	2	4	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average Cumulative GPA												
3.0 or less		3.56	3.49	3.48	3.48	3.55	3.53			3.48		3.53
3.5		3.39	3.43	3.47	3.52	3.32	3.40			3.51		3.41
4.0		3.31	3.42	3.49	3.36	3.13	3.29	3.31		3.54	3.40	3.32
4.5		3.01	3.29	3.54	3.29	3.05	3.10	3.28		3.54		3.19
5.0	3.53	2.98	3.26	3.53	3.20	3.00	3.02	3.12		3.44	3.14	3.15
5.5		2.81	3.22	3.48	3.08	3.01	2.85	2.70	3.15	3.17	3.45	3.07
6.0		2.83	3.26	3.28	3.06	2.93	2.85	3.27		3.51	3.30	2.99
Over 6.0		2.52	3.04	3.24	2.81	2.90	2.70	3.40		3.04	3.09	2.77
Total	3.53	3.11	3.35	3.49	3.24	3.07	3.19	3.22	3.15	3.49	3.32	3.23

As a general rule, time to degree is inversely correlated with cumulative grade point average, including within individual schools and colleges.

The following table lists 30 majors completed by at least 10 students or more, at least 5 of whom finished within 3 years or less, sorted by percent who finished within three years.

Major	Years to Degree								Average Years to Degree	% Who Finished in 3 Yrs
	3.0 or less	3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.50	6.00	Over 6.0		
Business: Actuarial Science	5	2	39	12	6		1	1	3.97	7.6
International Studies	5	3	57	6	4		1	1	3.87	6.5
Computer Sciences	23	36	180	71	97	11	14	31	4.36	5.0
Mathematics	14	12	132	44	63	16	8	9	4.29	4.7
Genetics	9	4	141	26	32	3	6	5	4.12	4.0
Business: Info Sys Analy & Design	6	9	58	34	31	7	3	5	4.35	3.9
Biochemistry	13	15	235	34	44	6	6	2	3.97	3.7
Art History	6	4	92	28	27	5	6	5	4.25	3.5
Biology	19	29	350	70	85	7	5	4	4.03	3.3
French	9	16	152	46	39	8	1	1	4.03	3.3
History	38	49	584	188	176	31	32	58	4.31	3.3
Economics	26	40	392	137	136	20	18	24	4.25	3.3
Molecular Biology	8	16	144	28	36	9	5	6	4.16	3.2
Political Science	46	71	946	193	176	24	17	38	4.12	3.0
Philosophy	7	17	118	32	38	9	7	17	4.47	2.9
Legal Studies	6	5	132	36	33	3	3	4	4.09	2.7
Business: Risk Mngmt & Insurance	6	6	120	47	46	2	2	1	4.11	2.6
Electrical Engineering	11	8	96	93	172	28	15	19	4.60	2.5
Psychology	27	59	780	220	134	31	20	28	4.12	2.1
Behavioral Science and Law	5	11	121	64	40	1	3	8	4.20	2.0
Business: Accounting	10	10	312	88	95	8	6	6	4.17	1.9
International Relations	11	21	338	102	89	19	11	18	4.27	1.8
Spanish	10	17	280	116	91	17	11	13	4.22	1.8
Journalism	14	30	615	117	67	6	7	8	3.98	1.6
Business: Finance, Invest & Bank	15	27	433	230	209	13	10	9	4.21	1.6
Sociology	10	14	379	106	99	5	10	32	4.28	1.5
Chemical Engineering	5	6	79	72	126	27	14	3	4.59	1.5
English	15	28	601	148	153	31	28	51	4.32	1.4
Zoology	9	21	455	142	131	16	17	14	4.20	1.1
Communication Arts	11	19	682	183	146	14	16	28	4.18	1.0

Students who finish within three years earn 25 percent their credits in the form of advanced standing credits from sources outside of the classrooms of UW-Madison.

Years to Degree	UW-Madison Credits		Advanced Standing Credits				UW-Madison Credits While a Special Student		Degree Credits	
	Taken	Passed	Transfer	Adv. Placemt.	Retro-active	Total	Taken	Passed	Total	Advanced Standing
Average Number of Student Credit Hours										
3.0 or less	96	96	12	13	7	32	0.2	0.2	128	32
3.5	106	106	6	9	7	22	0.1	0.1	128	22
4.0	117	116	4	5	4	14	0.0	0.0	130	14
4.5	127	125	3	3	3	9	0.0	0.0	135	9
5.0	137	135	3	3	3	9	0.0	0.0	144	9
5.5	144	140	3	3	3	9	0.1	0.1	149	9
6.0	143	138	4	3	3	10	0.1	0.1	148	10
Over 6.0	142	131	6	1	2	10	0.1	0.1	142	10
Total	124	123	4	4	4	12	0.0	0.0	135	12
As a Percent of Total Degree Credits										
3.0 or less	75	75	9	10	6	25	0	0	100	25
3.5	83	83	5	7	5	17	0	0	100	17
4.0	90	89	3	4	3	11	0	0	100	11
4.5	94	93	2	2	2	7	0	0	100	7
5.0	95	94	2	2	2	6	0	0	100	6
5.5	96	93	2	2	2	6	0	0	100	6
6.0	96	93	3	2	2	7	0	0	100	7
Over 6.0	100	93	4	1	2	7	0	0	100	7
Total	92	91	3	3	3	9	0	0	100	9

Students who finish within three years earn over 6 percent of their UW-Madison credits during summer terms. Moreover, when enrolled, their average credit load is 10 percent above average in fall and spring terms, and nearly 40 percent above average in summer terms.

Years to Degree	Percent of UW-Madison Credits Taken				Average Credit Load When Enrolled At UW-Madison		
	Fall	Spring	Summer	Total	Fall	Spring	Summer
3.0 or less	46.8	46.9	6.3	100.0	15.2	15.3	6.3
3.5	54.0	42.0	4.0	100.0	14.6	14.8	5.2
4.0	48.9	47.9	3.2	100.0	14.4	14.3	4.6
4.5	53.2	43.6	3.1	100.0	13.7	14.0	4.3
5.0	48.8	48.0	3.2	100.0	13.6	13.5	4.3
5.5	51.9	44.0	4.1	100.0	13.2	13.4	4.5
6.0	48.5	47.5	4.0	100.0	13.0	12.7	4.4
Over 6.0	49.2	45.4	5.4	100.0	11.9	11.8	4.9
Total	49.9	46.7	3.4	100.0	13.9	13.9	4.5

Students who finish within 3 years tend to have stronger academic preparation in high school, especially in mathematics.

Years to Degree	SAT Verbal	SAT Math	ACT	HS Per-centile	HS GPA	HS Algebra Units	HS Geo-metry Units	HS Other Math Units	UW Math Alpha	UW Math Beta	UW Math Gamma	UW Math Trix	UW Math Elem Alg	UW Math Int Alg	UW Math Col Alg	UW Math Trig	HS For Lang1 Units	HS For Lang2 Units	HS For Lang3 Units
Average Score																			
3.0 or less	615	682	30	91	3.66	0.9	0.9	1.3	572	548	756	748	587	663	576	624	3.4	0.3	0.02
3.5	599	655	28	90	3.69	0.9	0.9	1.0	555	564	724	722	641	649	523	592	3.7	0.2	0.02
4.0	599	632	27	88	3.64	1.0	1.0	1.0	551	553	698	691	613	624	500	574	3.6	0.2	0.01
4.5	572	628	26	86	3.62	1.0	1.0	0.5	547	550	692	685	690	620	422	420	3.5	0.1	0.00
5.0	580	628	26	86	3.60	1.0	1.0	0.5	549	551	703	698					3.4	0.1	0.01
5.5	559	630	26	85	2.81	1.0	1.0	0.0	548	547	704	701	635	510	340	380	3.3	0.2	0.01
6.0	575	622	26	84	3.84	1.0	1.0	0.0	555	553	695	687					3.3	0.2	0.01
Over 6.0	539	601	26	79	3.02	1.0	1.0	0.0	536	529	696	679					3.0	0.2	0.01
Total	589	632	27	87	3.63	1.0	1.0	0.7	549	550	699	693	613	628	505	578	3.5	0.2	0.01
Number of Students With a Score																			
3.0 or less	205	205	278	264	187	398	398	398	35	35	162	163	24	130	115	114	398	398	398
3.5	259	259	493	482	228	639	639	639	102	102	351	346	20	139	122	122	639	639	639
4.0	4,149	4,149	8,898	8,512	3,986	11,080	11,080	11,080	2,336	2,336	6,220	6,211	444	2,242	1,859	1,859	11,080	11,080	11,080
4.5	1,066	1,066	3,692	3,509	735	4,106	4,106	4,106	1,069	1,069	3,010	3,005	1	2	2	2	4,106	4,106	4,106
5.0	1,176	1,176	4,322	4,132	871	4,713	4,713	4,713	1,191	1,191	3,526	3,521					4,713	4,713	4,713
5.5	172	172	641	621	4	700	700	700	198	198	506	506	2	2	2	2	700	700	700
6.0	158	158	538	498	5	585	585	585	182	182	410	411					585	585	585
Over 6.0	245	245	632	596	12	760	760	760	326	326	434	436					760	760	760
Total	7,430	7,430	19,494	18,614	6,028	22,981	22,981	22,981	5,439	5,439	14,619	14,599	491	2,515	2,100	2,099	22,981	22,981	22,981

Over 40 percent of students who finish in three years or less have achieved sophomore or junior standing by the time of their entrance into UW-Madison. However, only 15 percent of those with sophomore or junior standing at the time of their entrance go on to finish in 3 years or less.

Years to Degree	Student Level at Entrance				Soph. Or Junior	
	Freshmen	Sophomore	Junior	Total	Number	Percent
Number of Degree Recipients						
3.0 or less	234	158	6	398	164	14.9
3.5	547	91	1	639	92	8.3
4.0	10,489	577	14	11,080	591	53.6
4.5	3,999	106	1	4,106	107	9.7
5.0	4,592	119	2	4,713	121	11.0
5.5	684	15	1	700	16	1.5
6.0	577	7	1	585	8	0.7
Over 6.0	756	4	0	760	4	0.4
Total	21,878	1,077	26	22,981	1,103	100.0
Average Years to Degree						
	4.3	3.8	3.7	4.3		
Percent of Degree Recipients						
3.0 or less	58.8	39.7	1.5	100.0		
3.5	85.6	14.2	0.2	100.0		
4.0	94.7	5.2	0.1	100.0		
4.5	97.4	2.6	0.0	100.0		
5.0	97.4	2.5	0.0	100.0		
5.5	97.7	2.1	0.1	100.0		
6.0	98.6	1.2	0.2	100.0		
Over 6.0	99.5	0.5	0.0	100.0		
Total	95.2	4.7	0.1	100.0		

As shown in the table below, students who graduate within three years often enter UW-Madison with a relatively large number of transfer and AP credits. However, of those students who arrive at UW-Madison with a large number (16 or more) of transfer and AP credits, only 10 percent finish within three years. Moreover, 22 students were able to finish in three years without bringing any transfer or AP credits at the time of their arrival.

Overall, degree recipients who arrived with transfer/AP credits carried slightly *larger (!)* average first term credit loads than students who arrived with zero transfer/AP credits. However, among those who finished in less than four years, students who arrived with zero transfer/AP credits carried slightly larger credit loads in their first term.

Transfer and AP Credits in 1st Term	Years to Degree								Total
	3.0 or Less	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	Over 6.0	
Number of Degree Recipients									
Zero	22	101	4,493	2,275	2,689	393	363	560	10,896
1 to 3	8	41	1,206	434	424	79	58	63	2,313
4 to 6	15	85	1,469	514	551	95	63	62	2,854
7 to 9	18	69	1,003	286	328	50	34	22	1,810
10 to 15	70	132	1,465	350	432	41	38	35	2,563
16 or more	265	211	1,444	247	289	42	29	18	2,545
Total	398	639	11,080	4,106	4,713	700	585	760	22,981
Average Transfer & Advanced Placement Credits in Student's First Term									
	22.2	12.3	6.4	4.0	4.0	3.7	3.3	2.0	5.6
Percent of Degree Recipients									
Zero	0.2	0.9	41.2	20.9	24.7	3.6	3.3	5.1	100.0
1 to 3	0.3	1.8	52.1	18.8	18.3	3.4	2.5	2.7	100.0
4 to 6	0.5	3.0	51.5	18.0	19.3	3.3	2.2	2.2	100.0
7 to 9	1.0	3.8	55.4	15.8	18.1	2.8	1.9	1.2	100.0
10 to 15	2.7	5.2	57.2	13.7	16.9	1.6	1.5	1.4	100.0
16 or more	10.4	8.3	56.7	9.7	11.4	1.7	1.1	0.7	100.0
Total	1.7	2.8	48.2	17.9	20.5	3.0	2.5	3.3	100.0
Average Credit Load in First Fall or Spring Term (excludes students who entered in a summer session)									
Zero	15.1	14.9	13.8	13.7	13.7	13.8	13.6	13.4	13.7
1 to 3	13.9	14.4	13.7	13.9	13.9	14.0	13.8	13.5	13.8
4 to 6	15.5	14.6	13.9	14.0	14.0	14.2	13.7	13.9	14.0
7 to 9	14.4	14.3	13.9	14.0	14.0	14.2	13.5	12.7	14.0
10 to 15	14.4	14.2	14.0	14.2	14.2	14.3	14.0	14.0	14.1
16 or more	14.6	14.3	14.1	14.4	14.4	14.7	13.8	14.2	14.3
Total	14.6	14.4	13.9	13.9	13.8	14.0	13.7	13.5	13.9
In this table, transfer & AP credits include credits earned at UW-Madison while student was a special student prior to becoming an undergraduate. Retroactive credits, on the other hand, are excluded.									

At the time of entrance into UW-Madison, students who finished within 3 years were just as likely to lack a declared major (76%) as all of the degree recipients (78%). However, by the time 2 years elapsed following entrance, the early completers were far less likely to still lack a declared a major (only 14%), compared to all the degree recipients (45%).

Years to Degree	Number Having No Major, By Years Since Entrance													
	Total	Upon Entrance	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	Over 6.0
Number of Degree Recipients														
3.0 or Less	398	301	257	158	56	7								
3.5	639	519	494	366	178	58	18							
4.0	11,080	8,930	8,707	7,380	4,735	1,767	714	180	9					
4.5	4,106	3,094	3,028	2,685	2,123	1,066	566	244	90	2				
5.0	4,713	3,469	3,351	2,857	2,235	1,385	916	495	277	101	10			
5.5	700	496	486	413	331	243	197	137	106	57	23	1		
6.0	585	440	424	355	298	199	169	140	125	74	52	19	4	
Over 6.0	760	572	544	466	404	300	265	216	187	157	140	109	97	164
Total	22,981	17,821	17,291	14,680	10,360	5,025	2,845	1,412	794	391	225	129	101	164
Percent of Degree Recipients														
3.0 or Less	100	76	65	40	14	2								
3.5	100	81	77	57	28	9	3							
4.0	100	81	79	67	43	16	6	2	0					
4.5	100	75	74	65	52	26	14	6	2	0				
5.0	100	74	71	61	47	29	19	11	6	2	0			
5.5	100	71	69	59	47	35	28	20	15	8	3	0		
6.0	100	75	72	61	51	34	29	24	21	13	9	3	1	
Over 6.0	100	75	72	61	53	39	35	28	25	21	18	14	13	22
Total	100	78	75	64	45	22	12	6	3	2	1	1	0	1

The percentage of new freshmen who graduate within three years or less generally increased over the successive entering cohorts from Fall 1990 through Fall 2000.

Cumulative Graduation Rates of New Freshmen										
Fall Cohort	Cohort Size	Calendar Years Elapsed Since Entrance								
		2.0	2.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0
Number of Additional Graduations										
1990	4,696			39	76	1,380	715	848	181	157
1991	4,702			38	65	1,493	676	857	177	149
1992	4,484	1		30	83	1,455	617	824	164	145
1993	4,698	1	2	39	89	1,640	677	802	148	116
1994	4,720		1	57	109	1,707	665	846	133	108
1995	5,211	3	4	57	136	1,978	795	824	150	120
1996	5,455	1	3	52	98	2,092	834	911	126	120
1997	5,881	2	1	77	132	2,266	839	1,051	159	124
1998	5,596	3	2	68	118	2,201	829	987	127	102
1999	5,665	1	3	68	122	2,208	837	921		
2000	5,739	2	2	74	146	2,365				
Cumulative Graduations										
1990				39	115	1,495	2,210	3,058	3,239	3,396
1991				38	103	1,596	2,272	3,129	3,306	3,455
1992		1	1	31	114	1,569	2,186	3,010	3,174	3,319
1993		1	3	42	131	1,771	2,448	3,250	3,398	3,514
1994			1	58	167	1,874	2,539	3,385	3,518	3,626
1995		3	7	64	200	2,178	2,973	3,797	3,947	4,067
1996		1	4	56	154	2,246	3,080	3,991	4,117	4,237
1997		2	3	80	212	2,478	3,317	4,368	4,527	4,651
1998		3	5	73	191	2,392	3,221	4,208	4,335	4,437
1999		1	4	72	194	2,402	3,239	4,160		
2000		2	4	78	224	2,589				
Cumulative Percentage Graduated										
1990		0.0	0.0	0.8	2.4	31.8	47.1	65.1	69.0	72.3
1991		0.0	0.0	0.8	2.2	33.9	48.3	66.5	70.3	73.5
1992		0.0	0.0	0.7	2.5	35.0	48.8	67.1	70.8	74.0
1993		0.0	0.1	0.9	2.8	37.7	52.1	69.2	72.3	74.8
1994		0.0	0.0	1.2	3.5	39.7	53.8	71.7	74.5	76.8
1995		0.1	0.1	1.2	3.8	41.8	57.1	72.9	75.7	78.0
1996		0.0	0.1	1.0	2.8	41.2	56.5	73.2	75.5	77.7
1997		0.0	0.1	1.4	3.6	42.1	56.4	74.3	77.0	79.1
1998		0.1	0.1	1.3	3.4	42.7	57.6	75.2	77.5	79.3
1999		0.0	0.1	1.3	3.4	42.4	57.2	73.4		
2000		0.0	0.1	1.4	3.9	45.1				

However, over successive graduation cohorts, the trend in the number who finish within three years or less is not as pronounced.

Years to Degree	Year Degree was Awarded				
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Number of Degree Recipients					
3.0 or Less	84	74	73	77	90
3.5	102	134	125	124	154
4.0	2079	2252	2183	2203	2363
4.5	795	829	839	823	820
5.0	831	914	1056	991	921
5.5	139	154	126	154	127
6.0	109	123	120	129	104
Over 6.0	152	152	142	155	159
Total	4291	4632	4664	4656	4738
Average Time to Degree					
	4.32	4.32	4.33	4.34	4.30
Percent of Degree Recipients					
3.0 or Less	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.9
3.5	2.4	2.9	2.7	2.7	3.3
4.0	48.5	48.6	46.8	47.3	49.9
4.5	18.5	17.9	18.0	17.7	17.3
5.0	19.4	19.7	22.6	21.3	19.4
5.5	3.2	3.3	2.7	3.3	2.7
6.0	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.2
Over 6.0	3.5	3.3	3.0	3.3	3.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Students who finished within three years or less were less likely to be enrolled for only 12 to 13 credits, compared to other students. Instead, they were more likely to be enrolled for 16 to 17, and even 18 credits.

