2010 Report of Efforts Concerning Timely Graduation

1. For each undergraduate degree program, the average number of semester credit hours attempted and the average number of fall and spring semesters attended by a student completing the program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Program</th>
<th># Grads</th>
<th>Credits Attempted</th>
<th>Mean Semesters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts and Architecture</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
<td>1,074</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and Math</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Service</td>
<td>1,136</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Graduates</td>
<td>3,866</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Average</td>
<td></td>
<td>141</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Source: Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

2. The specific efforts implemented to ensure that undergraduate students graduate in a timely manner and do not attempt an excessive number of semester credit hours beyond the minimum number required to complete the students’ degree programs.

- Personalized Academic and Career Exploration (PACE) is a one-stop, advising, counseling, and mentoring center for freshmen at Texas State. Freshmen will attend advising appointments with advisors who can assist undeclared students in selecting an academic path as well as specialized advisors who can help students with a declared major advance in their chosen field of study. The PACE Center will also house career counselors and a mentoring coordinator.
  [http://www.sacs-qep.txstate.edu/About-QEP/PACE-FAQs.html](http://www.sacs-qep.txstate.edu/About-QEP/PACE-FAQs.html)
- Hundreds of individual course equivalencies and numerous institutional articulation agreements are in place to ensure that the courses students take at other institutions will transfer to Texas State.
The Office of Testing, Research-Support and Evaluation Center provides important information to students about the Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA). This office also maintains and administers credit policies for the College Board’s Advanced Placement Program (AP) and SAT-II Subject Examinations, the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), the International Baccalaureate Program (IB), and departmental examinations. 
http://www.txstate.edu/trec/

Academic advisors in each of the colleges work with students each semester to review progress and select courses for the upcoming semester. 
http://www.txstate.edu/ucollege/advising/advisors.html

Academic advisors and students use the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) to verify the student’s progress toward graduation. 
http://www.registrar.txstate.edu/faculty-staff/dars.html

Current degree programs and requirements are outlined in the University catalog. 
http://www.txstate.edu/academicaffairs/catalog/catalogindex.html

At New Student Orientation (NSO), new students are counseled about the importance of taking sufficient course loads to graduate in a timely fashion. 
http://www.admissions.txstate.edu/admitted/orientation.html

PAWS Preview is a mandatory program for all freshmen who have fewer than 30 semester hours of college credit. At PAWS Preview, students learn where to turn for help and answers, connect with a wide array of campus services, meet faculty, staff and Texas State students, get connected to campus technology resources and share in 100 years of Texas State traditions. 
http://www.pawspreview.txstate.edu

Residential College is a highly successful and innovative program that offers students the opportunity to live in a residential setting with a faculty family. Students in this program have the unique opportunity to live in University housing, while having ready access to a faculty mentor. Students are co-enrolled in general education core curriculum courses, which yields built-in study partners. Retention and graduation rates for students living in the Residential College are significantly higher than in other housing settings. 
http://www.reslife.txstate.edu/Learning-Communities/Residential-College.html

Learning Communities are an interactive living arrangement which places a group of students with similar majors in the same residence hall. The students work with peer assistants, staff, and faculty to create connections between coursework and their majors. Often the students are enrolled in similar courses and develop study groups. Students participating tend to have better grades and higher retention rates. 
http://www.reslife.txstate.edu/student-success/Learning-Communities.html

University Housing Policy helps to establish a successful academic foundation for the students. The outcomes of the requirement have been better grades, higher persistence rates, and higher graduation rates for students living in the halls. 
http://www.reslife.txstate.edu/university-housing-policy.html
• Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC) offers learning support resources to improve academic skills. Any student, from freshman to graduate level, can benefit from SLAC services. Programs offered by SLAC include Supplemental Instruction, subject-area tutorial services, subject content handouts, online support for writing and mathematics, standardized test preparation and the learning lab. [http://www.txstate.edu/slac/](http://www.txstate.edu/slac/)

• Supplemental Instruction (SI) is a free academic support service offered to students in selected academic core courses that typically have a high incidence of D, F and W grades. Student instructors collaborate with faculty to provide weekly review and study sessions that are tailored to the individual faculty member’s course. Students who participate actively in SI support sessions typically perform at a higher level than students in the same class who do not. [http://www.txstate.edu/slac/suppinst.html](http://www.txstate.edu/slac/suppinst.html)

• Student Support Services, a TRIO grant program, offers tutoring, study skills and life skills development to first generation and low socio-economic status students. The program assists 200 students each year. [http://www.msa.txstate.edu/Affiliations/SSS.html](http://www.msa.txstate.edu/Affiliations/SSS.html)

• The Writing Center is an academic service coordinated by the Department of English. The Center provides assistance to students on developing writing and comprehension skills. Workshops such as writer’s voice, punctuation and grammar are also provided throughout the year. [http://www.writingcenter.txstate.edu/](http://www.writingcenter.txstate.edu/)

• The Math Lab is an academic service coordinated by the Department of Mathematics. The Lab provides assistance to students for math courses using peer and online tutoring. Study groups are also formed to support courses and often meet in the Lab. [http://www.writingcenter.txstate.edu/TSU-Academic-Support/Math-Lab.html](http://www.writingcenter.txstate.edu/TSU-Academic-Support/Math-Lab.html)

• The Collaborative Learning Center is a grant-funded assistance center for STEM majors. It offers peer tutoring and study skill development to assist students in courses. [http://hlsamp.science.txstate.edu/collaborative-learning-center.html](http://hlsamp.science.txstate.edu/collaborative-learning-center.html)

• University Seminar (US 1100) is a course designed to help meet transitional needs of new Texas State University students. The course encourages reflection upon the value and nature of a university education, as well as helping students to develop strategies for life-long learning. Course content includes class discussion, student participation, and involvement in the university community. University departments, speakers, and events are commonly used resources for US 1100. [http://www.txstate.edu/ucollege/universityseminar/](http://www.txstate.edu/ucollege/universityseminar/)

• The Positive Action with Students (PAWS) early warning system provides faculty and staff the opportunity to refer a student that may be in need of additional assistance for the following areas: academics, academic skill deficiencies, career, emotional, physical, social, and other personal issues. A cross-divisional group of responders provides assistance to the students. [http://www.vpsa.txstate.edu/retention/paws-alert.html](http://www.vpsa.txstate.edu/retention/paws-alert.html)
• The Emerging STARS Program provides a transition program for conditional admit students. The program requires students to attend Summer Session II and take two courses—typically freshman composition and another from the general education core. In addition to small class sizes and supplemental instruction, the students are also given a variety of co-curricular activities to encourage engagement with campus. http://www.vpsa.txstate.edu/Emerging-STARS.html

3. To provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation.

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• The PAWS Alert early warning system provides an opportunity for faculty to give feedback to freshmen about their performance during the first eight weeks of the semester. Academic advisors, US1100 instructors and residence life staff counsel with students who may not be reaching the standards established for the course work or attending courses. http://www.vpsa.txstate.edu/retention/paws-alert.html

• Student athletes’ progress is monitored through the Academic Progress Report. This online system allows faculty to report to the Athletic Academic Advising Center 2-3 times per semester on the academic achievements of the students. Employees in the center follow up with the students who are in need of additional support and services. http://www.writingcenter.txstate.edu/TSU-Academic-Support/Athletic-Academic-Center.html

4. To develop an online student degree progress report which compares the courses taken and credit received by a student to the courses completed and needed for degree and graduation requirements for each academic term.

• Academic advisors and students use the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) to verify the student’s progress toward graduation. http://www.registrar.txstate.edu/faculty-staff/dars.html
5. To implement tuition policies that encourages timely graduation.  
   http://www.txstate.edu/curriculumservices/catalogs/undergraduate/catalogs/10-12.html
   • The University Catalog explains the State statute (TEC 54.068) that permits institutions to charge nonresident tuition to students who take excessive hours—30 hours or more over the minimum number of semester credit hours required for completion of the degree program in which the student is enrolled (45 hours or more for those who began college prior to fall 2006). The Texas State University System has elected to enforce this regulation.
   • The University Catalog explains the Tuition Rebate Program (TEC 54.0065) which offers resident students a rebate of up to $1,000 if they have attempted no more than three hours in excess of the minimum number of semester hours required to complete the degree under which they graduated.
   • The University Catalog also lists the State policy that eliminates funding to higher education for courses which are attempted three or more times. To compensate for this loss of funding, Texas State students attempting a course for the third or more time may be charged a fee in addition to the tuition charged for the course.