



Office of
Research &
Planning

Prepared by:
Keith Wurtz

Research Briefs from the Office of Institutional Research Average Number of Years to Earn AA/AS Degree at CHC

Purpose: The purpose of this brief is to determine the average number of years it takes CHC students to earn an AA or AS Degree after earning their first grade on record (GOR) at Crafton. The information will be used by the Student Services and Student Development Department as an average for calculating students anticipated graduation date when completing enrollment verifications and submissions to the National Student Clearinghouse.

Summary of Findings:

- 1,483 students earned 1,744 AA/AS Degrees from 2005 – 2006 to 2009 – 2010
- 1,477 students earned their first degree at CHC from 2005 – 2006 to 2009 – 2010
- 40% of students take 3 – 4 years to earn their first degree at CHC
- On average, students took 5.3 years to earn a degree at Crafton

Methodology: Students who earned an Associate of Arts (AA) or Associate of Science (AS) Degree at Crafton from 2005 – 2006 to 2009 – 2010 were included in the study. The number of years a student took to earn a degree was calculated by subtracting the year the student earned their first GOR from the year in which the student earned their first AA or AS Degree at Crafton. Grades on record (GOR) include the following grades: A, B, C, D, F, NP, NC, P, CR, I, or W.

Findings: 1,483 CHC students earned 1,744 AA or AS Degrees at CHC from 2005 – 2006 to 2009 – 2010. In order to more accurately reflect the amount of time it takes students to earn a degree, students were only included in the study if they earned their first degree at Crafton from 2005 – 2006 to 2009 – 2010. Of the 1,483 students who earned a degree in that time period, 1,447 earned their first degree from 2005 – 2006 to 2009 – 2010. Table 1 illustrates the amount of time to degree completion for 1,335 (92%) students because the first term students completed a GOR could not be identified for 112 students. It took CHC students who earned a degree from 2005 – 2006 to 2009 - 2010 1 to 31 years to earn an AA or AS Degree (see Table 1). Six students earned a degree in just one year by transferring in units from another college. The student who took 31 years to earn a degree earned their first GOR at CHC in 1979, withdrew from courses in 1980 and 1982, and completed courses in 2008, 2009, and 2010; eventually earning an AS Degree in Health Sciences in 2010.

Table 1: Number of Years to Degree Completion for CHC Students Earning a Degree from 2005 – 2006 to 2009 – 2010.

Number of Years to Degree Completion	#	%	Number of Years to Degree Completion	#	%
1	6	.4	17	12	.9
2	70	5.2	18	12	.9
3	268	20.1	19	11	.8
4	269	20.1	20	7	.5
5	183	13.7	21	8	.6
6	118	8.8	22	6	.4
7	94	7.0	23	6	.4
8	59	4.4	24	10	.7
9	46	3.4	25	7	.5
10	26	1.9	26	6	.4
11	25	1.9	27	3	.2
12	20	1.5	28	6	.4
13	16	1.2	29	3	.2
14	19	1.4	31	1	.1
15	9	.7	Total	1,335	100.0
16	9	.7			

Including all of the students who earned a degree from 2005 – 2006 to 2009 – 2010 when calculating the average number of years would be misleading because many of the records are outliers. Outliers are extreme values that distort resulting statistics like the average (Mertler & Vannatta, 2005). For instance, only one student took 31 years to earn a degree and this record is considered an outlier (see Table 1). Including this outlier and others distorts the average by almost two years. Accordingly, only students who took 2 – 14 years to earn a degree were included in the analysis, which only reduced the number of records from 1,335 to 1,213, a decrease of only 9% (n = 122). Table 2 illustrates the average number of years it takes CHC students to graduate, while excluding outliers. On average, students who first earned a degree from 2005 – 2006 to 2009 – 2010 took 5.3 years to earn a degree (see Table 2).

Table 2: Average Number of Years to Graduate from CHC with an AA or AS Degree for Students who Graduated in their First Year from 2005 – 2006 to 2009 – 2010 (Excludes Outliers).

Year Graduated	Outliers Excluded				
	N	Min	Max	Mean	SD
2005-2006	307	2	14	5.1	2.52
2006-2007	236	2	14	5.6	2.99
2007-2008	220	2	14	5.2	2.52
2008-2009	222	2	14	5.2	2.53
2009-2010	228	2	14	5.5	2.82
Overall	1,213	2	14	5.3	2.68

Reference:

Mertler, C. A. & Vannatta, R. A. (2005). *Advanced and Multivariate Statistical Methods (3rd ed.)*. Pyrczak Publishing: Glendale, CA.

Any questions regarding this report can be requested from the Office of Institutional Research at: (909) 389-3206 or you may send an e-mail request to kwurtz@craftonhills.edu. (AverageDegreeComp.docx, XGPR_SU2005_SU2010.sav)