

## **Time to Degree at Oakton: Summer School, Developmental Courses, Transfer of Credits, & Continuous Enrollment**

The Office of Research has just completed a study looking at the time it takes a student to complete an associate degree in a transfer curriculum at Oakton. We looked at the 1,449 students who earned an associate degree in a transfer curriculum from spring 2000 through summer 2005. Specifically, we examined attendance in summer sessions, need for developmental courses, credits transferred to Oakton and continuous enrollment at the College (defined as the percentage of terms, including summers, attended between the first term of enrollment and the term in which the degree was awarded).

Key findings from the study are:

- 40 percent of graduates attended Oakton for six or fewer terms before earning their degree, another 37 percent attended for 7-9 terms, and the remaining 23 percent were at Oakton for 10 or more terms before completing their associate degrees.
- 67% of graduates attended for at least one summer session (half of these students attended for just one summer session and the other half of the 67% attended for two or more summer sessions).
- 40% of graduates did not need any developmental courses, 35 percent needed a developmental course in at least one area (reading, writing or mathematics), and the remaining 25 percent required developmental courses in two or three areas. More students needed developmental coursework in mathematics than in reading or writing.
- 65 percent of graduates earned all their credits at Oakton. The average number of credits transferred by the remaining 35 percent was 23.2.
- Graduates who needed no developmental courses attended Oakton for an average of 6.7 semesters, including summers, to earn their degrees. Those who needed a developmental course in one area were at Oakton for an average of 8 semesters, those needing developmental courses in two areas were at Oakton an average of 9.2 semesters, and those needing developmental courses in all three areas were at Oakton an average of 9.4 semesters.
- The number of terms, including summers, that elapsed between students' first terms of enrollment at Oakton and the terms in which they earned their degrees was 12.2. Students did not necessarily attend in all these terms. However, 75 percent of graduates *attended* in 2/3 or more of the terms between their first term at Oakton and the term in which they received their degrees.

A complete report is available on the Office of Research website,  
[www.oakton.edu/resource/oir/AA-ASSummerSchoolReport.pdf](http://www.oakton.edu/resource/oir/AA-ASSummerSchoolReport.pdf)