

AGENDA ITEM B3: DEGREE COMPLETION

BOARD RULE 400.0200.00

GRADUATION RATE COMPARISONS WITH COMPARABLE INSTITUTIONS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: OCTOBER 25, 2012

Comparison of graduation rates among Ohio’s 23 community colleges is studied to measure Belmont College’s progress and improvement toward completion and the student success agenda (Board of Trustees, *Ends Policies*, Section IV, 400.0200.00 *Degree Completion*).

This report relies upon data from the Higher Education Information (HEI) system that has been gathered from the 23 community colleges in the University System of Ohio (USO). Tables are organized, and presented to facilitate informed comparisons across similar institutions within the USO.

Presentation of Data

The data presented in this report show the number of associate degrees awarded by institutions, the number of **semester-equivalent credits** earned by students, and the percent of students who earned associate degrees within time categories that range from “2 years or less” to “more than 4 years,” from each of Ohio’s community colleges. Students who *transferred in* to Belmont and other institutions are not included in the “time-to-degree” statistics and HEI report¹.

This report includes three tables. Table 1, *Time and credits to associate degree for Belmont students graduating in 2010/2011*, displays HEI data for Belmont students during the 2010/2011 academic year. Table 2, *Five-year trend in associate degree awards*, compares the length of time for earning associate degrees by non-transfer students at Belmont from the 2006/2007 academic year through the 2011/2012 academic year. Table 3, *Time and credits to associate degree for Ohio community college students graduating in 2010-2011*, includes the same data for Belmont as is shown in Table 1, and also includes comparable data for all community colleges in the USO.

Table 1, *Time and credits to associate degree for Belmont students graduating in 2010/2011*, includes 8 columns of data. Data in the first column indicates the total number of students receiving associate degrees during the academic year. **This number of degrees awarded, 251, as reported in the HEI system includes only those students who have not transferred to Belmont and who have earned 90 or more credit hours from Belmont. The previous report, Graduation and Completion Rates, cites the graduation rate of 292 which includes students who transferred to Belmont and earned fewer than 90 credit hours.** Following the number of students who earned degrees are columns for the average number of credits-to-degree and four columns showing degree recipients categorized by percentages of graduates within *time-to-degree* periods.

Table 1, *Time and credits to associate degree for Belmont students graduating in 2010/2011*

Belmont Technical College	# degrees awarded	Avg. credits to degree	Percent graduating in:			
			2 years or less	> 2 years, <= 3 years	> 3 years, <= 4 years	More than 4 years
2010/2011	251	85	25%	29%	14%	33%

¹Received September 27, 2012 from Stephanie McCann, Director of Data Management and Analysis, HEI system

Table 2, *Five-year trend in associate degree awards 2006/2007 through 2010/2011*

Belmont Technical College	# degrees awarded	Avg. credits to degree	Percent graduating in:			
			2 years or less	> 2 years, <= 3 years	> 3 years, <= 4 years	More than 4 years
2010/2011	251	85	25%	29%	14%	33%
2009/2010	240	88	14%	38%	10%	38%
2008/2009	238	85	17%	36%	17%	30%
2007/2008	227	85	17%	31%	17%	34%
2006/2007	178	85	17%	31%	17%	34%

Table 3, *Time and credits to associate degree for Ohio community college students graduating in 2010-2011*

Institution	Number of Degrees Awarded	Average Credits to Degree	Percent Graduating in:				
			2 Years or Less	> 2 Years, <= 3 Years	> 3 Years, <= 4 Years	More than 4 Years	
Community Colleges							
Belmont Technical College	251	85	25%	29%	14%	33%	
Central Ohio Technical College	407	83	10%	38%	21%	31%	
Cincinnati State Tech. & Community College	993	87	11%	25%	20%	44%	
Clark State Community College	363	79	12%	20%	13%	54%	
Columbus State Community College	1,653	86	6%	21%	17%	57%	
Cuyahoga Community College	1,745	89	4%	11%	17%	68%	
Eastern Gateway Community College	186	100	17%	26%	18%	39%	
Edison State Community College	321	76	16%	21%	17%	46%	
Hocking Technical College	564	82	25%	29%	16%	30%	
James A. Rhodes State College	497	81	15%	22%	24%	38%	
Lakeland Community College	764	84	12%	17%	16%	55%	
Lorain County Community College	851	90	5%	16%	18%	62%	
Marion Technical College	223	95	11%	27%	22%	40%	
North Central State College	325	82	8%	19%	24%	49%	
Northwest State Community College	331	82	16%	19%	10%	56%	
Owens State Community College	1,106	90	6%	13%	20%	61%	
Rio Grande Community College	161	97	34%	23%	11%	32%	
Sinclair Community College	1,381	67	3%	15%	15%	66%	
Southern State Community College	334	80	20%	22%	14%	44%	
Stark State College of Technology	937	91	8%	24%	19%	49%	
Terra State Community College	196	67	16%	17%	15%	53%	
Washington State Community College	297	87	19%	24%	17%	40%	
Zane State College	375	84	14%	35%	14%	36%	

Data Highlights

1. In comparison with 22 other community colleges in Ohio, Belmont ranks 19th in the number of associate degrees granted to non-transfer students during 2010/2011. The numerical range for degrees awarded goes from a low of 161 at Rio Grande Community College to a high of 1,745 at Cuyahoga Community College. Belmont's ranking is eight places below the median and four places above the lowest.
2. At the same time that Belmont ranks four places above Rio Grande in number of completions by non-transfer students, only Rio Grande has a lower enrollment than

Belmont. Eastern Gateway, Terra, and Marion Technical had higher enrollments than Belmont in 2011, and fewer completions.

3. In terms of average credits to degree, Belmont ranks in the middle with 85 credits to degree. The range for average credits to degree runs from 67 credits at Terra State Community College and Sinclair Community College to 100 credits at Eastern Gateway Community College. Belmont's average of 85 credits to degree is slightly above the average value of 84.5.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. A large body of research literature affirms that the longer the time-to-degree, the lower the probability of completion. Part-time students are also less likely to complete. While in comparison to other two-year colleges, Belmont students appear to finish in shorter time periods than in other colleges, more can be done to facilitate completion of associate degrees at Belmont in less than three years. The following strategies will be explored to that end:
 - Partnership with the OACC Student Success Center to design innovative developmental education delivery models to enhance student retention, persistence, and time-to-completion.
 - Summer programs for adult students to improve success in the transition to college and time-to-completion.
 - Creating and leveraging financial aid scholarship options to facilitate persistence and timely completion.
 - Full implementation of the new student enrollment, admission, and retention model, and the organizational structure that supports it.