

AGENDA ITEM B3: DEGREE COMPLETION

BOARD RULE 400.0200.00

GRADUATION RATE COMPARISON WITH COMPARABLE INSTITUTIONS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING: OCTOBER 24, 2013

Comparison of graduation rates among Ohio’s 23 community colleges is studied to measure Belmont College’s progress and improvement toward the Ohio completion and 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 and charts 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. **HEI includes in its report, students who have earned a minimum of 60 credits at the institution where the degree completion is awarded. Thus, students who transfer credits in when they begin at an institution are assumed to have been transfer students and their awards are not included in HEI’s report.**

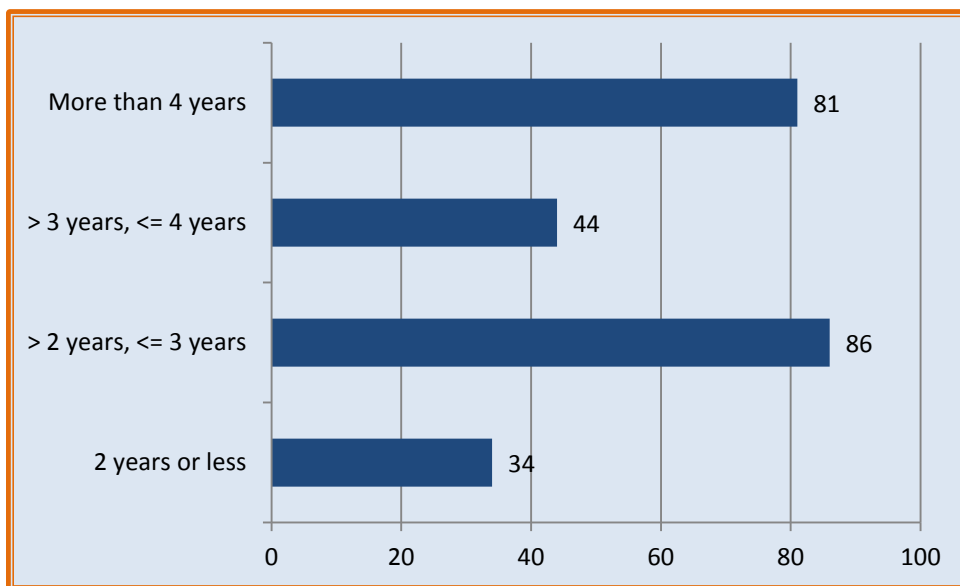
Table I, *Five-year trend in associate degree awards*, compares the length of time for earning associate degrees by non-transfer students at Belmont from the 2006/2007 academic year through the 2011/2012 academic year. Table II, *Time and credits to associate degree for Ohio community college students graduating in 2011-2012*, includes the same data for Belmont as is shown in Table 1, and also includes comparable data for all community colleges in the USO. The third table provides degree and certificate data from HEI and addresses the number of STEM degrees and certificates awarded at Belmont over the last three years.

Table I, *Five-year trend in associate degree awards 2006/2007 through 2011/2012*

Belmont 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
2011/2012	245	87	14%	35%	18%	33%
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%
2005/2006	168	85	24%	39%	11%	26%

Table 1, *Five-year trend in associate degree awards 2007/2008 through 2011/2012*, includes 7 columns of data. The first column indicates the academic year in which associate degrees were awarded. Data in the second column indicates the number of students receiving associate degrees during that academic year. (The previous report, *Graduation and Completion Rates*, cites the number of associate degrees awarded in 2011/2012 as 285. That number includes students who transferred to Belmont and earned fewer than 90 credit hours at Belmont. **This report does not include transfer students.**) The third column is the average number of credits students earned while attaining an associate’s degree. Columns 4, 5, 6, and 7 display percentages of students who earned degrees in 2011/2012 in 2 years or less; greater than 2 years, but equal to or less than 3 years; greater than 3 years, but equal to or less than 4 years; and more than four years.

Chart I, *Number of graduates by Time-to-degree categories, 2011/2012*



In the bar chart above, actual numbers of associate degree recipients are displayed in the same time categories that are used in Table 1. Associate degrees at Belmont are designed to be completed in two years for full-time students who earn 15 credit hours per term. The data in this chart suggest that the greatest number of graduates have spent greater than 2 years and equal to or less than 3 years earning their degrees.

In comparison with 22 other community colleges in Ohio, Belmont ranks 18th in the number of associate degrees granted to non-transfer students during 2011/2012. Considering all 23 community colleges, the numerical range for degrees awarded goes from a low of 181 at Rio Grande Community College to a high of 1,851 at Columbus State Community College. Belmont’s ranking is eight places below the median and four places above the lowest. Data for all 23 community colleges is displayed in Table II.

Table II, *Time and credits to associate degrees for Ohio community college students graduating in 2011/2012*

Institution	Number of Degrees Awarded	Average Credits to Degree	Median Years 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	245	87	3.3	14%	35%	18%	33%
Central Ohio Technical College	469	85	3.3	6%	38%	27%	30%
Cincinnati State Tech. & Community College	1,297	86	3.8	11%	28%	16%	45%
Clark State Community College	374	78	4.4	8%	20%	18%	54%
Columbus State Community College	1,851	85	4.5	6%	21%	19%	54%
Cuyahoga Community College	1,833	88	5.7	3%	13%	15%	69%
Eastern Gateway Community College	182	104	4	14%	20%	17%	49%
Edison State Community College	319	77	4.3	8%	26%	15%	50%
Hocking Technical College	539	82	3	24%	30%	16%	30%
James A. Rhodes State College	544	85	3.8	15%	27%	19%	40%
Lakeland Community College	753	85	4.7	12%	15%	16%	56%
Lorain County Community College	980	93	5	9%	11%	19%	61%
Marion Technical College	232	83	3.5	6%	38%	20%	36%
North Central State College	378	84	4.8	6%	20%	19%	55%
Northwest State Community College	311	80	4.3	16%	20%	14%	51%
Owens State Community College	1,097	89	4.7	6%	17%	18%	60%
Rio Grande Community College	181	93	2.7	40%	24%	10%	25%
Sinclair Community College	1,653	67	5.3	4%	18%	15%	63%
Southern State Community College	394	79	3.5	15%	31%	12%	41%
Stark State College of Technology	1,101	93	4	8%	22%	22%	48%
Terra State Community College	223	68	4	16%	20%	15%	49%
Washington State Community College	314	88	3.3	12%	34%	15%	39%
Zane State College	412	85	3.3	14%	34%	16%	36%

In terms of average credits to degree, Table II shows that Belmont ranks just above the middle of the range of all community colleges with 87 credits to degree. The range for average credits to degree runs from 67 credits at Sinclair Community College to 104 credits at Eastern Gateway Community College. Belmont's average of 87 credits to degree is 4 credits above the average value 83.7% for all community colleges in 2011/2012.

During the 2011/2012 year, there were five community colleges with fewer than 250 graduates. Below, Chart II shows the number of associate degrees awarded at each of these five institutions. Of the five institutions, Belmont had the lowest fall enrollment with 1,616 students, and Terra Community College had the highest fall enrollment with 3,172 students.

Chart II, *Comparison of numbers of graduates among five peer institutions in 2011/2012*

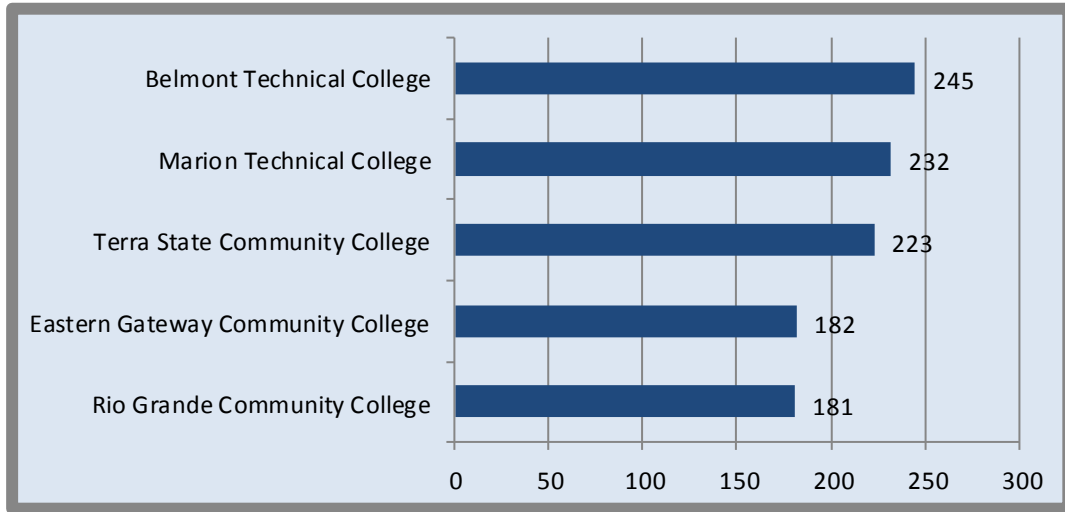


Table III, *STEM certificates and degrees as a percent of certificates and degrees awarded 2009/2010 through 2011/2012* shows the relationship between all certificates and associate degrees awarded and STEM certificates and degrees awarded. The data for STEM awards was provided in OBR’s *Sixth Report on the Condition of Higher Education in Ohio*¹ (2013).

Table III, *STEM certificates and degrees as a percent of certificates and associate degrees awarded 2010/2011 and 2011/2012*

	2009/2010			2010/2011			2011/2012		
	All certificates and degrees	STEM certificates and degrees	% STEM	All certificates and degrees	STEM certificates and degrees	% STEM	All certificates and degrees	STEM certificates and degrees	% STEM
Belmont College	351	188	53.6%	377	209	55.4%	377	196	52.0%

The most current data available for number of STEM degrees awarded by Ohio community colleges comes from the *Sixth Report on the Condition of Higher Education in Ohio* (2013) and includes both certificates and associate degree awards in STEM fields. Data for STEM awards earned at Belmont displayed in Table III indicates that over a three-year period,

¹ https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/board/condition-report/2013-Condition-Report_FINAL-WEB.pdf

the number of STEM certificates and degrees awarded has been within a range from 188 (in 2009/2010) to 209 (in 2010/2011). In 2011/2012, the most recent year for which data are available, there were 196 STEM awards earned at Belmont. Over the last three years, between 52% and 55.4% of all certificates and associate degrees awarded at Belmont have been in STEM fields.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The number of associate degrees awarded to non-transfer students during the 2011/2012 academic year might not be a representative year as this was the last academic year on the quarter calendar for the majority of Ohio community colleges. A number of institutions encouraged students to complete their degrees before the change to semesters.
2. It is recommended that Belmont College implement the strategies in the college strategic unit work plans that facilitate the completion and student success agenda.
3. It is also recommended that the college continue to use measure key performance indicators in the unit work plans to measure the effectiveness of retention, completion, and student success strategies/tactics and to use these results for the improvement of college systems and processes.
4. Continue to leverage college scholarships to retain students to the point of completion.
5. Continue program development and program-specific promotion. Develop the program sites on the college website to include expanded information about each program, its value in the workforce and its options as part of a career pathway. Expand the Belmont transfer website pages.