

Graduate Student Time-to-Degree Report

The University of Kentucky
Graduate School
351 Patterson Office Tower
Lexington, KY 40506-0027

Academic Years:
1997-1998 to 1999-2000

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<http://www.rgs.uky.edu/gs/gradhome.html>

INTRODUCTION:

The Graduate School is pleased to present a retrospective graduate student time-to-degree report. This report provides information on the time-to-degree for Doctoral, Specialist, and Master’s degree recipients from the University of Kentucky for three academic years: 1997-1998, 1998-1999, and 1999-2000. The time-to-degree information is provided by graduate program and degree awarded. The full distribution of graduate time-to-degree is reported for each program (degree); values of the mean and median time-to-degree are reported on the same basis. In addition, the mean time-to-degree is reported by college.

Mean time-to-degree (TTD) values for all awarded graduate degrees (University-wide) are as follows:

<u>1997-1998:</u>	Number of Recipients	TTD (years)
Doctoral	233	5.63
Specialist	4	1.93
Master’s	1129	2.26
<u>1998-1999:</u>	Number of Recipients	TTD (years)
Doctoral	204	5.48
Specialist	7	2.89
Master’s	1128	2.33
<u>1999-2000:</u>	Number of Recipients	TTD (years)
Doctoral	249	5.86
Specialist	7	3.27
Master’s	1060	2.33

<i>Totals for Three Year Period:</i>		
	Number of Recipients	TTD (years)
Doctoral	686	5.67
Specialist	18	2.82
Master’s	3317	2.31

I hope you find this report informative and useful as a means by which to assess student progress through your program. It was our intention to calculate time-to-degree for each graduate in a consistent and unambiguous fashion; the methodology on which our determinations were based is detailed in the *Notes* section that follows this introduction.

I would like to caution you regarding the temptation to compare time-to-degree between programs and across colleges. Overall time-to-degree is discipline-specific and reflects a number of factors including the relative fraction of full-time versus part-time enrollees in a given program, the number of course credits required for a particular degree, and varying traditions regarding the award of a master’s degree prior to the pursuit of the doctorate. Please keep these factors in mind as you review the report.

If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact The Graduate School Assessment Office.

Douglass S. Kalika, Acting Dean
The Graduate School

NOTES:

As indicated above, it was our intention to determine time-to-degree (TTD) for each graduate in a consistent and unambiguous manner. As such, all TTD calculations reported herein are based strictly on the student's official enrollment as reflected in the University's Student Information System (SIS). Time-to-Degree was determined based on the student's first enrollment in the major *and* degree status corresponding to the awarded degree; exceptions to this rule are discussed below. Starting with the first semester of enrollment, time-to-degree was counted continuously to the date of graduation, regardless of whether or not the student was registered for coursework during a particular term. The TTD assignments for each term were as follows:

Fall Semester	0.3 years
Spring Semester	0.3 years
First Summer Session (4 week)	0.1 years
Second Summer Session (8 week)	0.3 years

University graduation dates are August, December, & May.

MASTER'S DEGREE RECIPIENTS:

TTD for Master's degree recipients was based strictly on their time of enrollment in program (major) status. No attempt was made to account for work completed prior to enrollment in the program, either as a post-baccalaureate student at U.K., or transferred in from another institution.

Many students enrolled in doctoral status earn Master's degrees in their home program en route to the doctorate. The determination of TTD for the award of the Master's was based on the first term of enrollment of the student in the program (major).

The Graduate School

DOCTORAL DEGREE RECIPIENTS:

TTD for doctoral degree recipients was based on their first term of enrollment in the program (major) in doctoral status. A previously earned Master's degree was not considered in the determination of TTD, unless the Master's was earned en route to the doctorate; i.e. while the student was officially enrolled in doctoral status.

There was one notable exception to the above rule, for students entering a program in Master's status and then changing over to doctoral status without the award of the Master's degree. For these students, TTD for the awarded doctorate was based on the first term of enrollment in the program corresponding to the awarded degree, and as such included time enrolled both in master's and doctoral status.

REPORTS BY PROGRAM:

The program tables contain the number of degrees and TTD (mean & median, in years) for each academic year, as well as for the three academic years combined. The bar graph shows frequency versus time-to-degree for all degree recipients over the three year period. The increments along the "time to degree" axis are 0-0.3, 0.4-0.6, 0.7-1.0, 1.1-1.3, 1.4-1.6, 1.7-2.0 years, etc.

If you have any questions concerning the TTD values reported for your program, or would like to review the raw data for your program (including information on individual student attributes), please contact D.S. Kalika in the Graduate School.