

MIRO Analysis Brief

Undergraduate Time-to-Degree Brief



Mānoa Institutional Research Office (MIRO)

<https://manoa.hawaii.edu/miro/>

Published October 2022

Time-to-degree (or time-to-completion) measures the length of time students take to finish a degree. At the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, undergraduate time-to-degree is reported separately for first-time, full-time students and transfer students. Before calculating time-to-degree, a cohort must be formed. A cohort consists of the students who completed a bachelor's degree in a given fiscal year. After that cohort has been identified, we look backwards to measure the amount of time (including summers) between each student's first term as a degree-seeking student and graduation (commencement date). To achieve consistent and comparable statistics across years, specific rules are applied to select students for calculation. In this case, a shorter time-to-degree is desirable because it means the university successfully graduates students in a timely manner.

Figure 1 shows a continuous decreasing trend of the average time-to-degree at UHM for undergraduate students who started as first-time, full-time students, with no prior college experience. On average, a student who starts at UHM as a first-time, full-time student earns a bachelor's degree in less than 5 years.

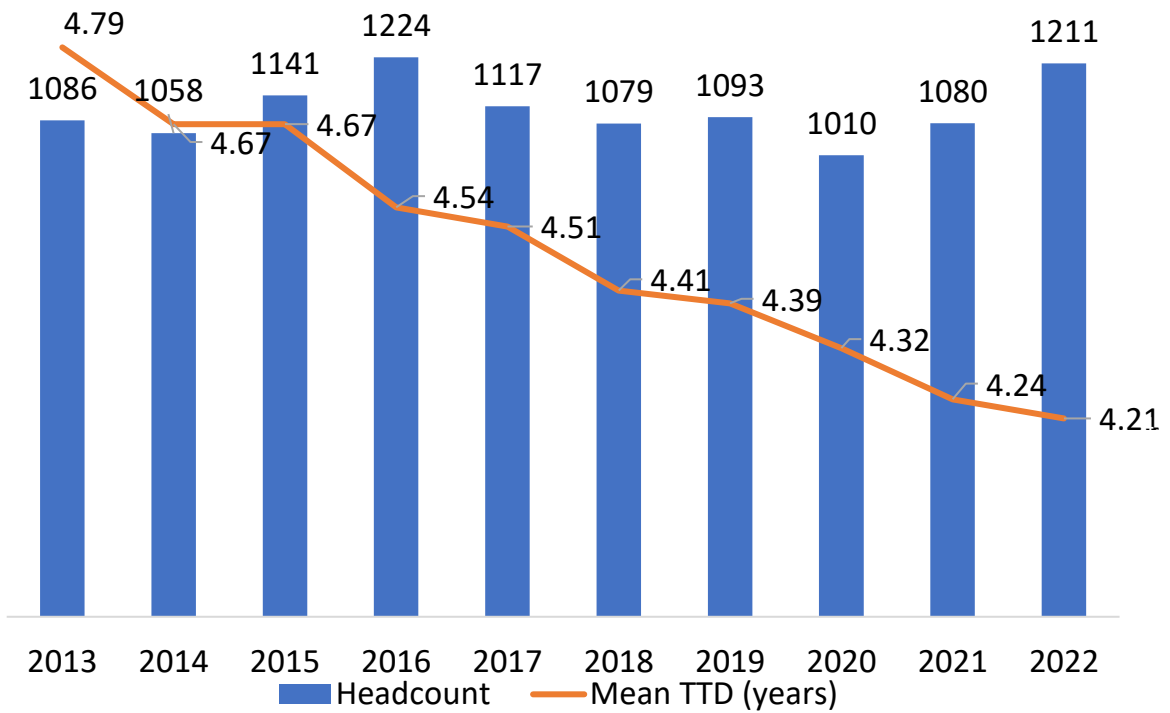


Figure 1. Headcount and Avg. TTD of Undergraduates Who Started as First-time Students

Table 1 Time-to-Degree of Undergraduates Who Started as **First-time Students**

Cohort (fiscal year)	Headcount	AVG. TTD (years)
2013	1086	4.79
2014	1058	4.67
2015	1141	4.67
2016	1224	4.54
2017	1117	4.51
2018	1079	4.41
2019	1093	4.39
2020	1010	4.32
2021	1080	4.24
2022	1211	4.21
Overall	11104	4.48

¹ Students who pursue multiple degrees at the same time and students who pursue a second bachelor's degree are excluded from this calculation, due to the different requirements for course load and time to graduation. In addition, students who have two or more years of time gap between two enrolled semesters are excluded from the calculation, because those students may follow different requirements as re-admitted students. Among first-time full-time students, about 3.5% of students were excluded from this calculation because they had a single gap between semesters of more than two years.

Table 2 shows the time-to-degree of undergraduate students who started as full-time transfer students, broken down by educational level at the time of transfer. Full-time status and educational level were specified to gain consistent and comparable data across cohorts. The most recent 2022 data shows that on average, a student who transfers in as a freshman takes 3.46 years to complete a bachelor's degree, a sophomore transfer takes around 3.17 years, a junior transfer takes 2.41 years, and a senior transfer takes 1.9 years.

Table 2 Time-to-Degree of Undergraduates Who Started as Full-time Transfers

	Full-time Transfer Freshmen		Full-time Transfer Sophomores	
Degree Cohort (FY)	Headcount	AVG. TTD (years)	Headcount	AVG. TTD (years)
2013	65	4.26	373	3.35
2014	69	4.06	373	3.42
2015	67	4.35	399	3.65
2016	75	4.45	393	3.36
2017	55	4.18	366	3.28
2018	51	4.13	418	3.11
2019	83	3.66	385	3.19
2020	92	3.66	350	3.13
2021	82	3.67	371	3.08
2022	81	3.46	329	3.17
Overall	720	3.95	3757	3.28
	Full-time Transfer Juniors		Full-time Transfer Seniors	
Degree Cohort (FY)	Headcount	AVG. TTD (years)	Headcount	AVG. TTD (years)
2013	610	2.71	170	2.01
2014	657	2.62	177	1.95
2015	657	2.71	193	1.91
2016	714	2.68	159	2.04
2017	669	2.67	170	2.13
2018	632	2.59	150	1.95
2019	542	2.55	166	1.98
2020	563	2.47	151	2.17
2021	509	2.46	140	2.02
2022	492	2.41	148	1.9
Overall	6045	2.60	1624	2.00