



Mānoa Institutional Research Office
MIRO Analysis Brief

- 2023 -

UNDERGRADUATE TIME TO DEGREE



2500 Campus Road, Hawai'i Hall
Honolulu, HI 9682

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



Undergraduate Time To Degree

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.

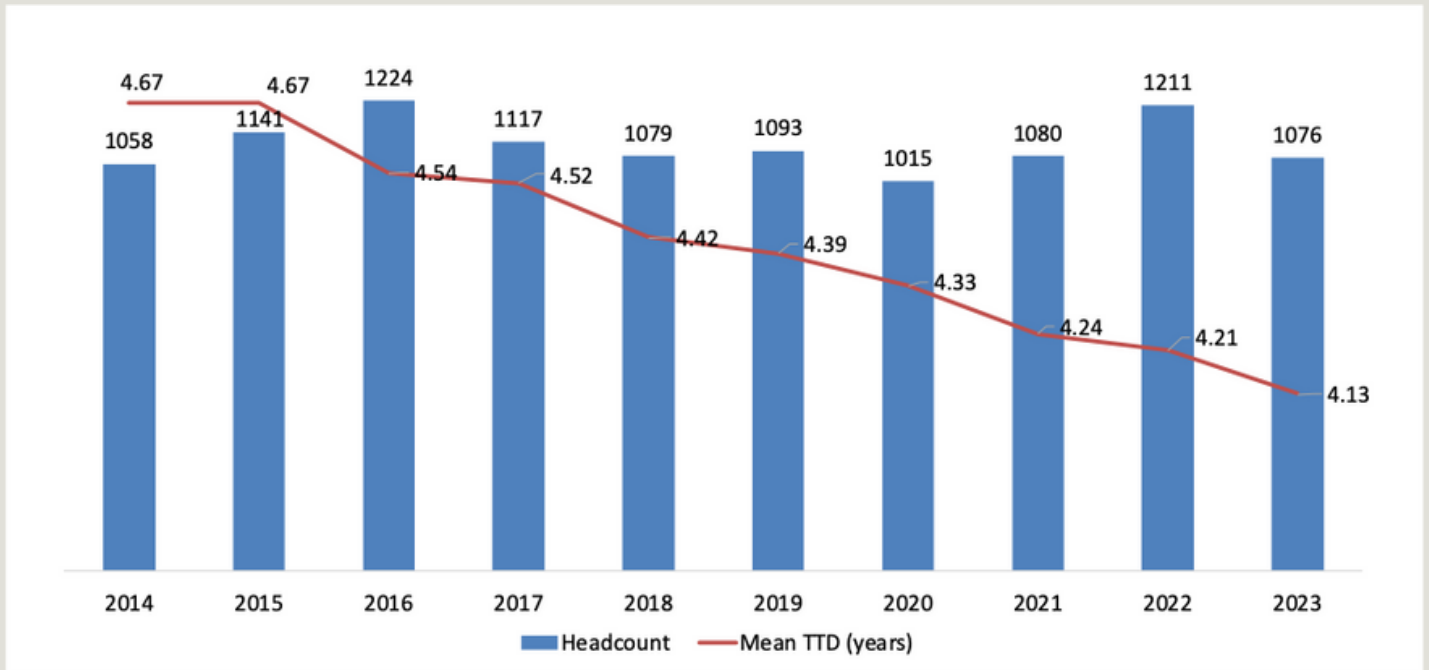


Figure 1. Headcount and Average TTD of First-Time Undergraduate Students

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.

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

Fiscal Year Cohort	Headcount	Mean TTD (years)
2014	1058	4.67
2015	1141	4.67
2016	1224	4.54
2017	1117	4.52
2018	1079	4.42
2019	1093	4.39
2020	1015	4.33
2021	1080	4.24
2022	1211	4.21
2023	1076	4.13
Overall	11094	4.41

[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 2023 data shows that on average, a student who transfers in as a freshman takes 3.64 years to complete a bachelor’s degree, a sophomore transfer takes around 3.02 years, a junior transfer takes 2.34 years, and a senior transfer takes 2.05 years.

TIME TO DEGREE TRENDS

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

Degree Cohort (FY)	Full-time Transfer Freshmen		Full-time Transfer Sophomore	
	Headcount	AVG. TTD (years)	Headcount	AVG. TTD (years)
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
2023	101	3.64	312	3.02
Overall	756	3.88	3696	3.25

TIME TO DEGREE TRENDS

MIRO Analysis Brief

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

Degree Cohort (FY)	Full-Time Transfer Juniors		Full-Time Transfer Seniors	
	Headcount	AVG. TTD (years)	Headcount	AVG. TTD (years)
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
2023	522	2.34	135	2.05
Overall	5957	2.56	1589	2.01




Mānoa Institutional Research Office MIRO Analysis Brief

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

For UH Employees and Staff

You can find more information using our Decision Support System.

 2500 Campus Road, Hawai'i Hall
Honolulu, HI 9682

 miro@hawaii.edu

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