

**Texas A&M University-Kingsville**

**Responses to H.B. 1172  
Timely Graduation Report Requirements  
November 2007**

This report has been prepared in compliance with Section 1, H.B. 1172 of the Texas Education Code. It provides data on undergraduates completing programs at Texas A&M

To meet this goal the university has continued with its previously reported efforts (Timely

- To facilitate students taking an increased number of semester credit hours per semester, the university will continue efforts to develop and offer additional online courses and degrees.

*B.To ensure that undergraduate students do not attempt an excessive number of semester credit hours beyond the minimum required to complete the students' degree programs.*

- The Partners for Success consortium with Del Mar College continues to provide needed remediation to those students least prepared for college so that skills can be developed and students can advance more quickly (with fewer failures) into University College developmental education and/or a discipline-specific field of study.
- All new freshmen are required to take a College Success Series course (e.g., 1201) where they receive detailed information about degree requirements, curricula, and course rotations in an effort to increase student understanding of the requirements for degree completion and to limit the number of semester credit hours attempted that do not apply to the student's degree. Based on the recommendation of the Time-to-Degree and Student Success Task Forces the university continues to standardize and strengthen the content of the 1201 courses through coordinated training and preparation of the instructors. In fall 2007, a common textbook pilot program was implemented to standardize the delivery of content aimed at improving student learning in the first year of college.
- Academic advisors explain the cost of dropping classes and repeating classes with particular attention to the new Six-Drop Policy approved by the Texas legislature. Students are counseled regarding the repercussions of dropping courses and advised accordingly.
- An academic advising fee was implemented in fall 2007 to provide support for additional academic advisors, advisor professional development, and the purchase of computer software and hardware in support of academic advising. With the support of new professional advisors (M.S./M.A. preferred; B.S./B.A. required in a discipline within the College), all lower-division students are required to meet with an academic advisor each semester. This required advising policy will assist students to make wise academic choices, thus enhancing their short- and long-term academic success.
- Students who satisfy degree requirements with no more than three credit hours in excess of the minimum number of hours required by the degree are encouraged to apply for a tuition rebate of \$1,000.

*C.To provide academic counseling concerning timely graduation.*

- Effective fall 2007, a mandatory freshman academic advising policy was implemented. This policy requires that all freshman students must meet with an academic advisor in their college before registering for classes or making any changes to their class schedules (e.g., additions or withdrawals). This process will not only help students make wise academic choices, but will also serve as the basis for informing students of the new Six-Drop policy.
- Additional academic advisors are being hired at the College level to increase student access to timely advice regarding course selection and progress towards degree completion. These advisors have been hired with revenues from a new academic advising fee which was implemented in fall 2007.
- Effective for spring 2008 registration, A&M-Kingsville will have access to College Scheduler, an online program which enables students to develop high-quality class schedules tailored to their academic and personal needs. Working with the academic advisors, the class scheduling process will be streamlined. This will allow students and advisors to invest more time in discussions of career development and future opportunities, an important element of academic advising which can be lost when excessive time is spent on schedule building.
- For freshmen, advisors continue to review registrations to ensure that students are registering for advised courses. In addition, academic advisors contact new students throughout their first year to check on progress and identify any problems early.
- The importance of timely graduation is discussed with parents and students during student orientation.
- The academic advising staff members in University College monitor student completion of Texas Success Initiative requirements and advise students accordingly so they may complete the need for remediation in a timely fashion.
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- Texas A&M University-Kingsville has installed SCT Banner, an enterprise stu7 9hT5n3409