

Proven Strategies for Success: 15 to Finish & Guided Pathways

Enrollment Management Symposium
November 14, 2014

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University System of Georgia
Creating A More Educated Georgia

Why these strategies matter?

- **R**etention
- **P**rogression
- **G**raduation



TIME to completion & COST to students!

The Peach State has a problem:

Georgia college students are taking too much time to earn their college degrees.

- For an associate's degree, full-time students are graduating in just under four years while part-time students take almost five years.
- For a bachelor's degree, full-time students take almost five years to complete college while part-time students are averaging just over six years.

<http://www.completercollege.org/docs/Georgia.pdf>

More problems for the Peach!

- According to CollegeMeasures.org, Georgia ranks **31st** in college completion with an average rate of **52.1%** at four-year institutions.
- At two-year colleges, Georgia is ranked **39th** with a **32%** graduation & transfer rate.
- According to the USG's Complete College Georgia webpage, by 2020, it is projected that over **60%** of jobs in Georgia will require a certificate, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree.
- Approximately **58%** of the state's young adults do not have the college credentials to meet the above demand.

Time is not the only enemy for college completion in Georgia:

Georgia students also fall victim to unnecessary credit accumulation.

- For an associate's requiring, on average, 60 credits, students accrue 30 – 35 extra credits.
- For a bachelor's requiring 120 credits, students take almost 15 additional credits.

Excessive credit accumulation equates to lost time and wasted funding.

More Time ≠ High Graduation Rates

For Associate's Degree holders:

- **13.5%** of full-time students graduated in three years and **18.1%** in four years.
- **6%** of part-time students graduated in three years and **9.7%** in eight years.

For Bachelor's Degree holders:

- **56.7%** of full-time students graduated in six years and **62.3%** in eight years.
- **15.4%** of part-time students graduated in six years and **21.8%** in eight years.

Bringing the point (really close to) home:

In FY16 the University System of Georgia will implement a new funding formula.

NO LONGER

Enrollment = Funding

NEW MODEL

RPG = Funding

***15 to Finish* can make a difference!**



[Click Here](#)

What is *15 to Finish*?

- *15 to Finish* is a retention, progression, and graduation initiative designed to increase on-time completion rates by establishing 15+ credit hours per semester as the new norm.
- This cost effective and enrollment intense approach shortens the time to graduation through a number of advising strategies.

Why 15 Matters?

An October 2013 Complete College America survey of 329 institutions in 30 states, covering both two and four year public colleges, found:

- Most college students (**69%**) were not enrolled in a schedule that would lead to on-time graduation, even if they never changed majors, failed a course, or took a class they didn't need.
- Even among "full-time" students, most (**52%**) were actually taking fewer than 15 hours, the standard course load that could lead to on-time graduation.
- At most two-year colleges, less than a third of "full-time" students were taking 15 or more hours.

Changing the mindset:

Full time
does **not** equal
full load.



It makes economic sense!

- Taking 15 credit hours per semester **saves** in annual tuition and fee costs as well in room and board expenses.
- Graduating college on time can save a student as much as **\$50,000** in extra tuition, lost wages, and additional related costs.



Using Georgia Perimeter College as an example...

University System of Georgia								
Tuition and Fees								
(Calculated based on in-state tuition, not including residential fees)								
	Credits to Degree	Max Credits Paid For	3	6	9	12	15	12 vs 15
Georgia Perimeter College	62	15	\$548.20	\$931.40	\$1,214.60	\$1,497.80	\$1,751.00	
	Semesters to degree		21	11	7	6	5	
	Cost of degree		\$11,417.80	\$9,767.80	\$8,407.80	\$7,942.80	\$7,457.80	\$485.00

As the number of hours per semester goes up, total cost for college goes down!

HOURS



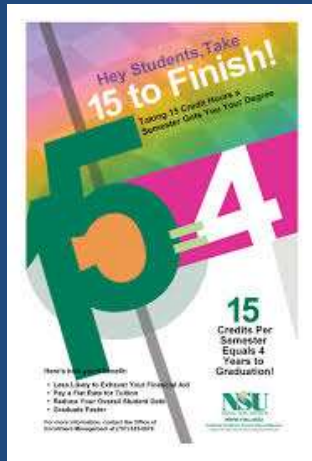
COST

Education = Income

- The more time students spend in school the longer they delay employment and wage earnings.
- Current data suggests individuals with a Bachelor's degree could expect to earn **84%** more over their lifetime than high school graduates.
- A high school graduate can expect to earn **1.3 million** over a lifetime.
- On average, an Associate's degree-holder earns **1.7 million** over a lifetime while someone with a Bachelor's degree earns **2.3 million**.

15 to Finish sweeping the nation!

15 states across the nation have launched similar 15 to Finish initiatives.



Nevada



Texas



Colorado

Utah



Tennessee

Complete College Georgia and *15 to Finish* on our minds!

- The University of North Georgia is taking the *15 to Finish* message to local high schools.
- In Fall 2013, Georgia Southwestern State College increased their standard freshmen student course load from 12 credit hours to 15; at the conclusion of the semester, they saw a slight increase in overall GPA.
- Georgia Regents University developed their own brand, “Four Years For You!”
- Georgia State University is implementing a variety of retention and graduation strategies...all in the larger *15 to Finish* family.
- Spring 2014 saw the launch of Georgia Perimeter College’s Program Maps.



Guided Pathways to Success (GPS):

Basic Tenets of Guided Pathways:

- Informed Choice
- Meta-Majors
- Default Pathways
- Intrusive Advising

Complete College America promotes
Guided Pathways as a **Game Changer.**

Knowledge is Power!

Informed Choice:

- aligns major selection with career interests.
- helps students stay on-track for timely graduation.
- prevents them from taking courses that do not count toward their declared major.
- assists them in meeting **Satisfactory academic progress** as outlined by federal financial aid requirements.

Default Pathways a.k.a. Academic Maps

Benefits of the default schedule:

- Students must choose a meta-major. No student can be “unclassified.”
- Students do not need permission to register for courses on their schedule.
- Students follow a specific, recommended course sequence or academic map with designated milestone courses.



Meta-Majors

- Definition: broad clusters of majors that help students move toward a general area of study
- Examples: STEM, Health Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities & Fine Arts, Education, and Business
- Math Alignment:
 - STEM → College Algebra/Pre-calculus
 - Non-STEM → Quantitative Reasoning/Statistics

Academic Maps

- Definition: a term-by-term schedule of the recommended course sequencing for a specific meta-major or major
- Denotes milestone or prerequisite courses that are offered each term, for example, ENGL1101/1102



English Program Map for GPC

Term 1		Term 2	
Courses	Hours	Courses	Hours
ENGL 1101 * (a)	3	COMM 1201 *	3
POLS 1101 *	3	ENGL 1102 * (a)	3
PHED 1101	1	HIST 1111 * or 1112 *	3
Area A Mathematics elective (a)	3-4	Area C Humanities elective (b)	3
Area B Institutional elective (b)	1-3	Area D Math/Technology elective	3-4
Area D - Science course with lab	4		
Total Hours	15-18	Total Hours	15-16

Term 3		Term 4	
Courses	Hours	Courses	Hours
ENGL 2111 or 2112	3	PHED elective	1-3
HIST 2111 * or 2112 *	3	Area E Social Science elective	3
Area C Literature elective	3	Area F Literature elective	3
Area D - Science course with lab	4	Area F elective	3
Foreign Lang. course (2001-2002) (b)	3	Area F elective	3
		Foreign Lang. course (2001-2002) (b)	3
Total Hours	16	Total Hours	16-18

Intrusive Advising

Definition: Intrusive Advising is a proactive form of academic advisement that occurs early and often throughout each semester of a student's enrollment and incorporates multiple forms of outreach and support.

*For Complete College America,
Intrusive Advising requires that students:*

“see their advisors before registering for classes if: 1) they fail to complete milestone courses on schedule, 2) they fall two or more courses behind on their academic map, or 3) they have a 2.0 GPA or less for the semester.”

Two proven strategies unite:

15 to Finish gets students to 15 credits per term while **Guided Pathways to Success** gets students to the right 15 credits per term where they can graduate on time with the least amount of expense as they earn a college degree.



Thank You!
Questions?



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