

Time to Completion

El Camino College

2010-2011

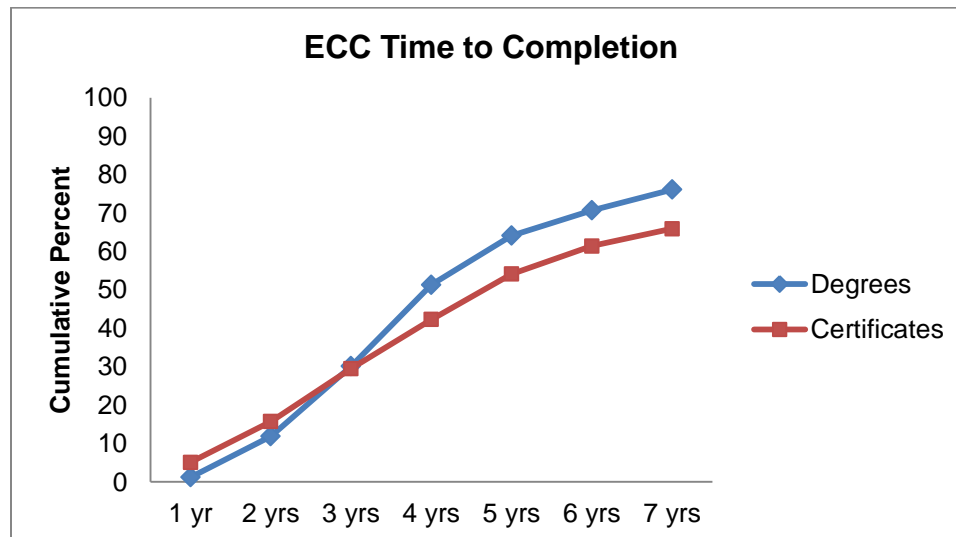
In 2010-11, 1,813 degrees and certificates were awarded to students at El Camino College. At El Camino College Compton Center, 264 awards were granted to students. Table 1 provides an outline of the time these students took to earn their degrees and certificates. Time to completion for degrees is categorized into 3 groups: 1) 100% - up to 2 years, 2) 150% - up to 3 years, and 3) 200% - up to 4 years. Because certificates vary in program length, time to completion is grouped as follows: 1) 100% - within normal time, 2) 150% - within 1.5 times the length of normal time, and 3) 200% - within 2 times the length of normal time.

Table 1. Percent of Awarded Students by Time to Completion

Campus	Award Type	Time to Completion					
		100%	150%	200%	Mean (Years)	Median	SD
Main/Torrance	Degrees	12.0	30.2	51.3	5.5	4.0	3.7
	Certificates	35.0	53.1	61.8	6.5	5.0	4.7
Compton Center	Degrees	14.7	37.0	51.2	5.4	4.0	4.0
	Certificates	29.4	39.2	51.0	6.8	6.5	4.7

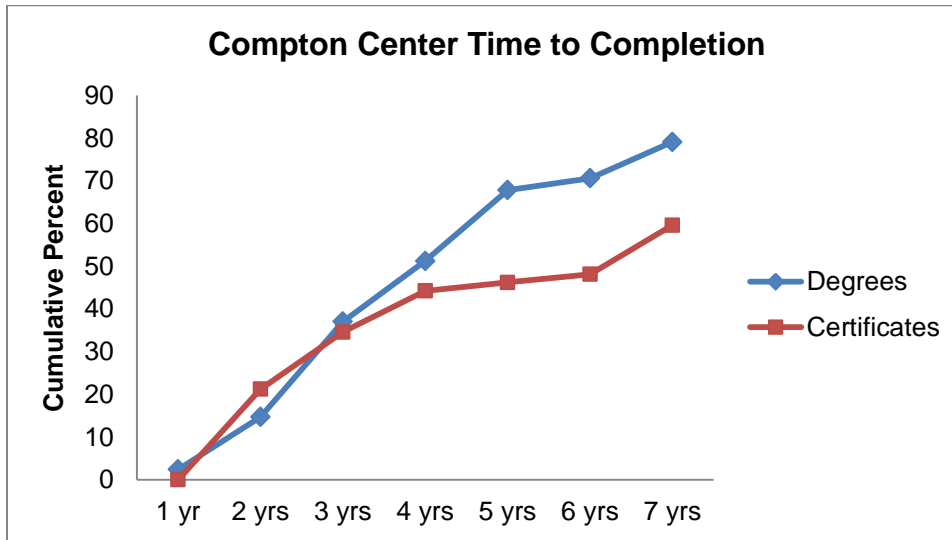
Of the students who graduated in 2010-11, at least 50% completed their degrees within 200% of normal time. At ECC, the average student took 5.5 years to complete a degree and 6.5 years to complete a certificate. Chart 1 highlights the cumulative percent of students who completed degrees and certificates within 7 years. It reveals that more students completed a certificate within 3 years and a degree beyond 3 years.

Chart 1. ECC Graduates' Time to Completion



Similarly at the Compton Center, students on average took 5.4 and 6.8 years to complete a degree and certificate, respectively. Chart 2 also depicts a similar pattern, where noticeably more students earned degrees beyond the 3-year mark.

Chart 2. Compton Center Graduates' Time to Completion



Certificate earners outperform degree recipients in the early years of completion, but students on average take more time to complete certificates, as seen at both locations. Although the average time to completion is greater for certificate earners than degree recipients, the standard deviation is higher at both locations (see Charts 3 and 4).¹ A standard deviation of 4.7 indicates that the range of time to completion among students is fairly wide. The distribution of the student counts for ECC and the Compton Center are both skewed to the right, where more students complete certificates before the average time to completion. This explains the higher percentage of students who complete certificates within 100% of time when compared to degree recipients.

Overall, approximately half of the students who graduated in 2010-11 completed their studies within 150% to 200% of normal time. Various programs and initiatives have focused on providing students with various resources and tools to decrease the time students take to graduate. The Graduation Initiative (Title V), for example, is one of various efforts that provides support to students during their academic endeavors.

¹ A normal standard deviation, which is represented by the bell-shaped curve in Charts 3 and 4, describes the dispersion of the values from the mean of years. The average (mean) time to completion is at the peak of the normal curve. Larger standard deviations connote a greater span of values.

Chart 3. ECC Certificate Recipients' Time to Completion

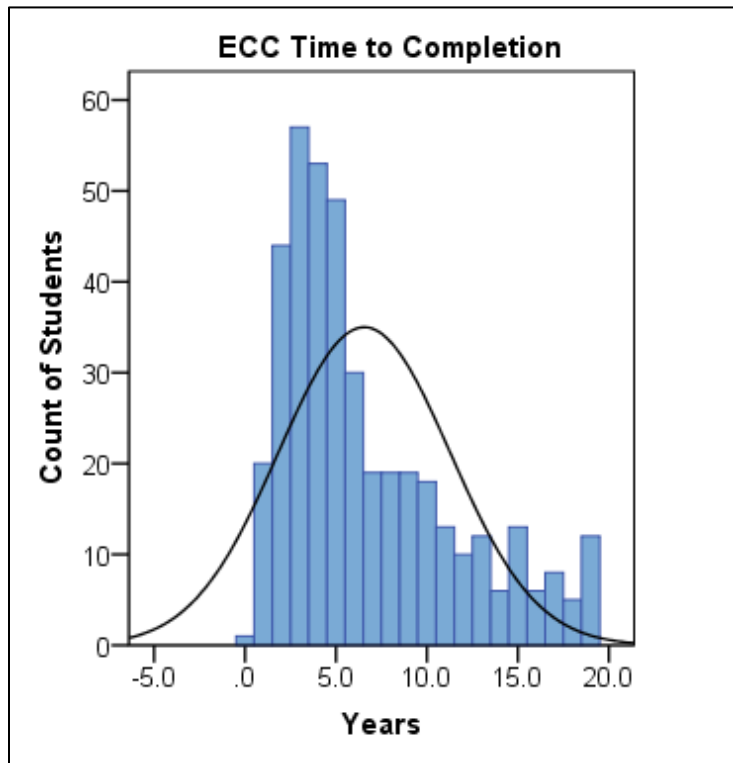


Chart 4. Compton Center Certificate Recipients' Time to Completion

