

IIR Corner

September 2015

In the tenth issue of IIR Corner, degree-seeking first time in college (ATD FTIC) students were tracked to investigate how many credit hours were earned at Tarrant County College District within a four-year time period.

Noteworthy observations:

- 1) 25% of students did not complete any credit hours during their first year.
 - 2) 50% of students completed eight or fewer credit hours during their first year.
 - 3) 75% of students completed 17 or fewer credit hours during their first year.
 - 4) Within two years, about one in four students earned 30 or more credit hours or graduated, and roughly one in three students earned 30 or more credit hours or graduated by the end of year four.
- ❖ Developmental hours are not considered earned credit hours; thus, developmental hours completed are not included in this analysis. A student who successfully completed several developmental courses could have zero earned credit hours.

It is important to realize that students who intend to graduate with an Associate's degree in two years should ideally complete 30 hours during their first year. Data presented in this report suggest that students are not earning enough hours to complete a degree in two years.

Team IIR



In the following table, a summary of the TCCD credit hours earned during the ATD FTIC cohort's first year is presented, and the distribution of earned hours is shown in the histogram. As an example, there are 6,384 students in the 2011FL ATD FTIC cohort. On average, students completed about 10 hours during their first year (2011FL, 2012SP, and 2012SU). One in four students did not complete any credit hours (1st Quartile), one in two students completed seven or fewer credit hours (Median), and three in four students completed 16 or fewer credit hours (3rd Quartile.) The 2012FL, 2013FL, and 2014FL ATD FTIC cohorts showed a similar pattern compared to the 2011FL ATD FTIC cohort, but, on average, the 2013FL and 2014FL cohorts completed slightly more hours.

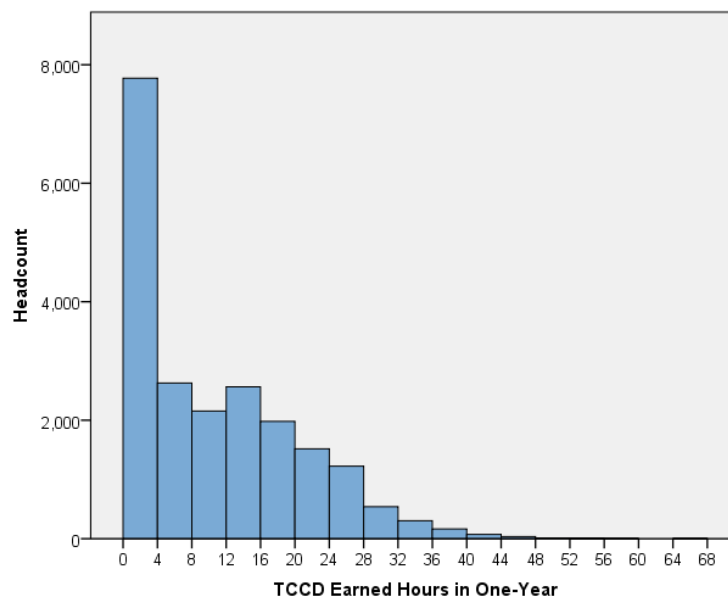
TCCD Credit Hours Earned during ATD FTIC Cohort's First-Year

ATD FTIC Cohort	Cohort Size	TCCD Credit Hrs. Earned in One-Year						
		Minimum	1st Quartile	Median	3rd Quartile	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
2011FL	6,384	0	0	7	16	58	9.8	9.6
2012FL	5,168	0	0	7	16	65	9.6	9.5
2013FL	4,949	0	0	8	18	53	10.3	10.0
2014FL	4,481	0	3	9	18	65	10.8	10.0
Total	20,982	0	0	8	17	65	10.1	9.8

Source: ODR and IR Cum. Hrs., GPA and Program

**Developmental hours are not considered earned credit hours; thus, developmental hours completed are not included.*

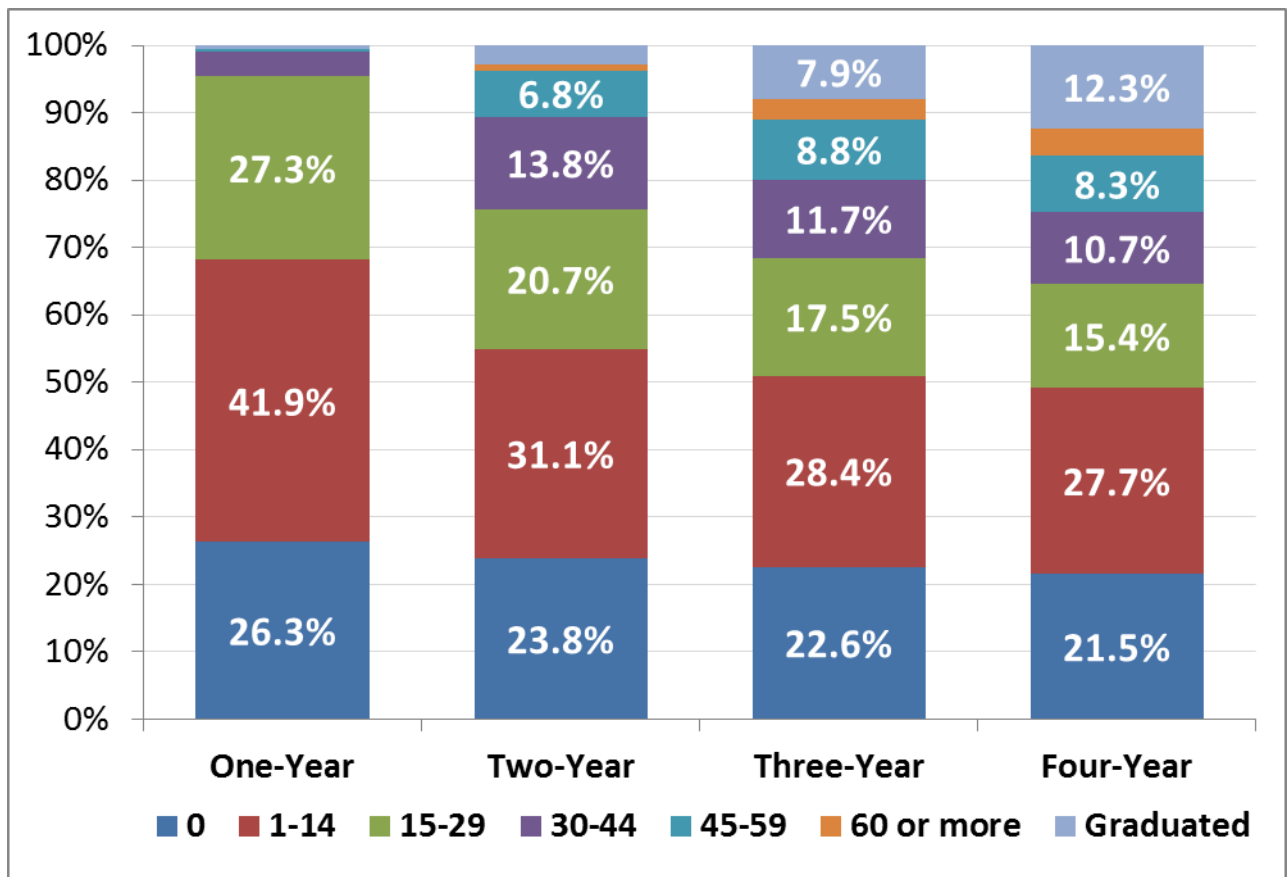
Histogram of TCCD Credit Hours Earned - Total



A longitudinal analysis is shown in the following section using all available cohort data. Roughly 5.0% of students completed 30 or more credit hours or graduated during their first year. After two years, about 24.0% of students earned 30 or more credit hours or graduated, and about 32.0% of students had 30 or more credit hours or graduated after three years. By the end of year four, about 35.0% of students earned 30 or more credit hours or graduated. More specifically, roughly 12.0% of students graduated in four years, but roughly one in five students never earned a single credit hour.

The ratio chart below helps visually show the movement of students into higher earned credit hour groups such as “15-29” or “30-44”. Ideally, the lower earned credit hours would continue to decrease over time as the higher earned credit hours increase. However, although movement appears to slow, year one to year two shows the greatest movement. Year two to year three is less than year one to year two, and movement from year three to year four is less than movement from year two to year three.

TCCD Credit Hours Earned by ATD FTIC Cohorts during Four-Year Tracking Period



Source: ODR and IR Cum. Hrs., GPA and Program

*Data shown are the “Total” box presented on the next page.

ATC FTIC Cohort	TCCD Credit Hrs. Earned	One-Year		Two-Year		Three-Year		Four-Year	
2011FL	0	1,716	26.9%	1,519	23.8%	1,438	22.5%	1,373	21.5%
	1-14	2,700	42.3%	2,027	31.8%	1,826	28.6%	1,766	27.7%
	15-29	1,709	26.8%	1,298	20.3%	1,080	16.9%	981	15.4%
	30-44	232	3.6%	917	14.4%	769	12.0%	685	10.7%
	45-59	10	0.2%	406	6.4%	561	8.8%	532	8.3%
	60 or more	0	0.0%	51	0.8%	226	3.5%	259	4.1%
	Graduated	17	0.3%	166	2.6%	484	7.6%	788	12.3%
	Total	6,384	100.0%	6,384	100.0%	6,384	100.0%	6,384	100.0%
2012FL	0	1,398	27.1%	1,233	23.9%	1,175	22.7%		
	1-14	2,243	43.4%	1,609	31.1%	1,450	28.1%		
	15-29	1,313	25.4%	1,110	21.5%	936	18.1%		
	30-44	168	3.3%	679	13.1%	582	11.3%		
	45-59	11	0.2%	350	6.8%	461	8.9%		
	60 or more	0	0.0%	44	0.9%	136	2.6%		
	Graduated	35	0.7%	143	2.8%	428	8.3%		
	Total	5,168	100.0%	5,168	100.0%	5,168	100.0%		
2013FL	0	1,319	26.7%	1,178	23.8%				
	1-14	2,028	41.0%	1,503	30.4%				
	15-29	1,349	27.3%	1,005	20.3%				
	30-44	197	4.0%	685	13.8%				
	45-59	11	0.2%	370	7.5%				
	60 or more	0	0.0%	38	0.8%				
	Graduated	45	0.9%	170	3.4%				
	Total	4,949	100.0%	4,949	100.0%				
2014FL	0	1,079	24.1%						
	1-14	1,820	40.6%						
	15-29	1,351	30.1%						
	30-44	182	4.1%						
	45-59	18	0.4%						
	60 or more	0	0.0%						
	Graduated	31	0.7%						
	Total	4,481	100.0%						
Total	0	5,512	26.3%	3,930	23.8%	2,613	22.6%	1,373	21.5%
	1-14	8,791	41.9%	5,139	31.1%	3,276	28.4%	1,766	27.7%
	15-29	5,722	27.3%	3,413	20.7%	2,016	17.5%	981	15.4%
	30-44	779	3.7%	2,281	13.8%	1,351	11.7%	685	10.7%
	45-59	50	0.2%	1,126	6.8%	1,022	8.8%	532	8.3%
	60 or more	0	0.0%	133	0.8%	362	3.1%	259	4.1%
	Graduated	128	0.6%	479	2.9%	912	7.9%	788	12.3%
	Total	20,982	100.0%	16,501	100.0%	11,552	100.0%	6,384	100.0%

Source: ODR and IR Cum. Hrs., GPA and Program