Time-to-Degree of Master’s Level Students

Along with student retention, another measure of institutional success is the time it takes for students to complete their degree. This study looks at all students who entered DePaul seeking a master’s degree from 1996-97 through 2002-03, and counts the number of academic quarters in which they were enrolled to complete the degree (treating the two summer sessions as one quarter). These cohorts were selected because they represent the most recent cohorts for whom we have six complete years of enrollment.

On average, master’s students take slightly more than 10 quarters to graduate, which is equivalent to a little more than 2.5 years. Seventy-five percent of master’s level students require between 2 and 4 years (8 to 16 quarters) to graduate; about 96% of all graduates completed their work in 16 quarters or less. Over the three most recent cohorts, the average number of quarters enrolled has dropped by nearly one full quarter, while the graduation rate of these cohorts has risen. In other words, in recent years the graduation rate has improved and the time to degree has lessened for master’s students.

Source: OIPR Graduate Student Retention Database, 1996-2002 cohorts.