

# Postsecondary Data Partnership Tableau Dashboard Analysis Quick Guide

## Time to Credential/Credentials Conferred Dashboard

American Institutes for Research

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## Overview

The [Postsecondary Data Partnership \(PDP\) Tableau dashboard tool](#) reports key performance indicator (KPI) and other key data. The dashboards are intended to aid in the discovery of notable trends and insights in the data and to facilitate communicating these findings to institutional stakeholders, identifying areas for improvement, setting goals, and designing and implementing initiatives. Each dashboard allows you to look at an institution's progress toward student success through the lens of a different KPI or other important metric. The dashboards also allow you to filter and disaggregate the data across a variety of relevant student-level characteristics.

This quick guide focuses on the time to credential/credentials conferred dashboard which provides the count of credentials awarded along with the average time to completion for credentials awarded by the institution by academic year.

For general information on using the [PDP Tableau dashboard tool](#), see the [Postsecondary Data Partnership Tableau Dashboard Analysis Quick Guide: Dashboard Tool Overview](#) document. This document contains the general purpose of the dashboards, a menu of the available suite of dashboards, definitions for KPIs and other important PDP concepts, information on the student-level filters and dimensions available to refine and disaggregate the dashboards, subgroup gap analysis, and important considerations to keep in mind when using the dashboards.

For questions regarding technical support for the [PDP Tableau dashboard tool](#) (e.g., login issues), contact PDP customer support at [PDPService@studentclearinghouse.org](mailto:PDPService@studentclearinghouse.org). You can reach the Postsecondary Partnership Research Center at 703-742-4427.

## Time to Credential/Credentials Conferred Dashboard

### Description and Purpose

This dashboard reports two KPIs: average time to credential and credentials conferred. Average time to credential measures the calendar years elapsed since the time of first enrollment at the cohort institution. Unlike other KPIs, both credentials conferred and time to credential are non-cohort-based and do not reflect individual students within an entering cohort year. Instead, both reflect credentials conferred by the institution within an academic year. The average time to credential typically varies by credential type, when students enrolled, and intensity of enrollment. That is students in shorter credential programs, who transferred-in, and who began as full time generally take less time to complete a credential than their longer credential program, first-time, and part-time counterparts. Therefore, disaggregating the dashboard by *Enrollment Type* (i.e., transfer-in versus first-time) or *Attendance* (i.e., full-time versus part-time) may be particularly useful.

### Key Questions

This section provides a list of key questions to ask as you begin to use the dashboard. These are intended as a jumping-off point to facilitate your use of the dashboard tool.

- How many credentials does your institutions confer in a year, and how has this changed over time?

- How long does it take your students to earn a credential?
- Which groups of students are taking longer than expected to complete a credential?

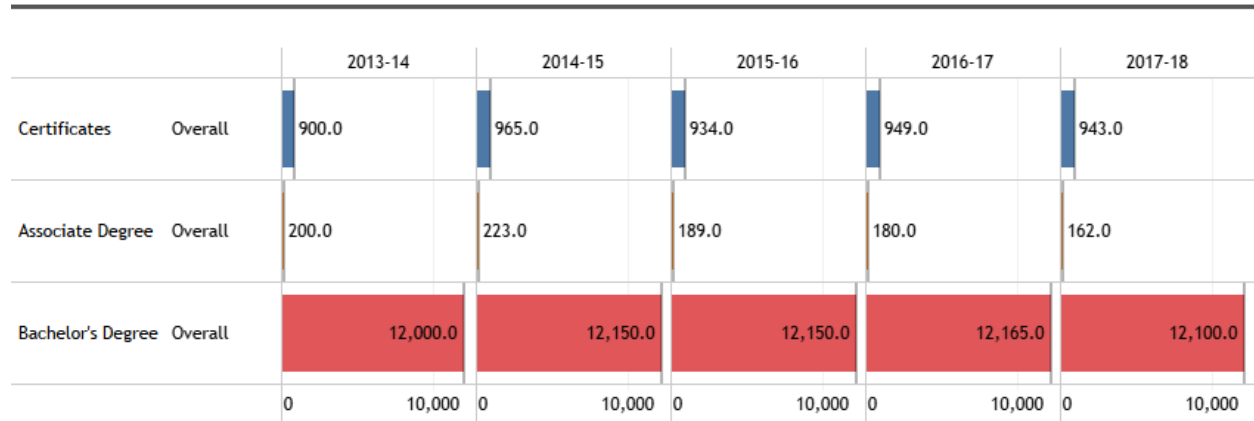
## A Practical Application

This section provides a look at how a fictitious institution of higher education successfully used the dashboard data to inform a student success initiative. *The example uses fabricated data for illustrative purposes only.*

Stakeholders at Hudson University were interested in the time to credential for first-time students and transfer-in students. They used the time to credential/credentials conferred dashboard to investigate. As shown in Exhibit 1, Hudson University primarily awards bachelor’s degrees (red bars).

### Exhibit 1. Time to Credential/Credentials Conferred Dashboard View 1: Hudson University, Total Credential Count by Overall

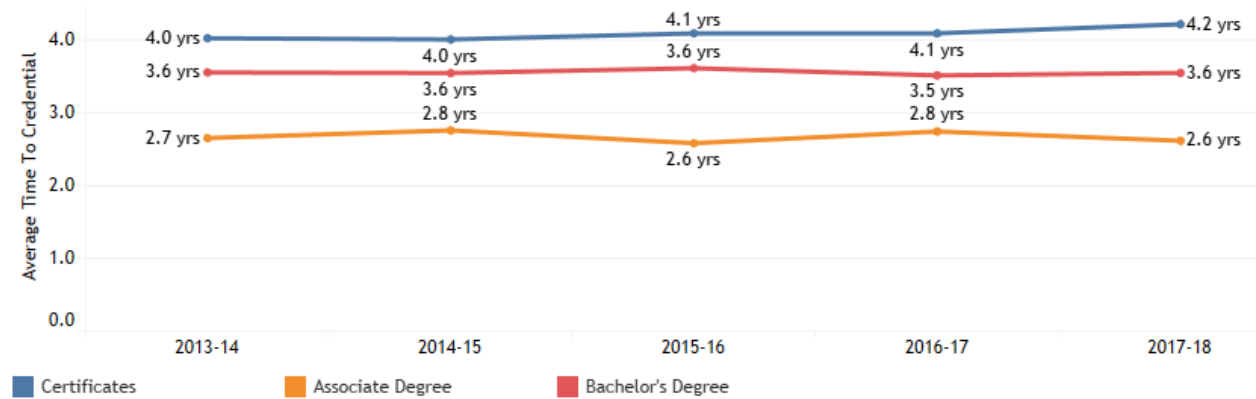
**Total Credential Count by Overall**



The dashboard showed the stakeholders that Hudson had experienced little change over time in average time to credential (Exhibit 2). Most fluctuation in this metric was in time to an associate degree (orange line), but the university had awarded a relatively small number of these credentials. Stakeholders also observed that the overall average time to complete a bachelor’s degree was less than 4 years (red line). They suspected this average time to a bachelor’s degree was greatly influenced by Hudson’s high number of transfer-in students.

**Exhibit 2. Time to Credential/Credentials Conferred Dashboard View 2: Hudson University, Average Time to Credential by Year—All Students**

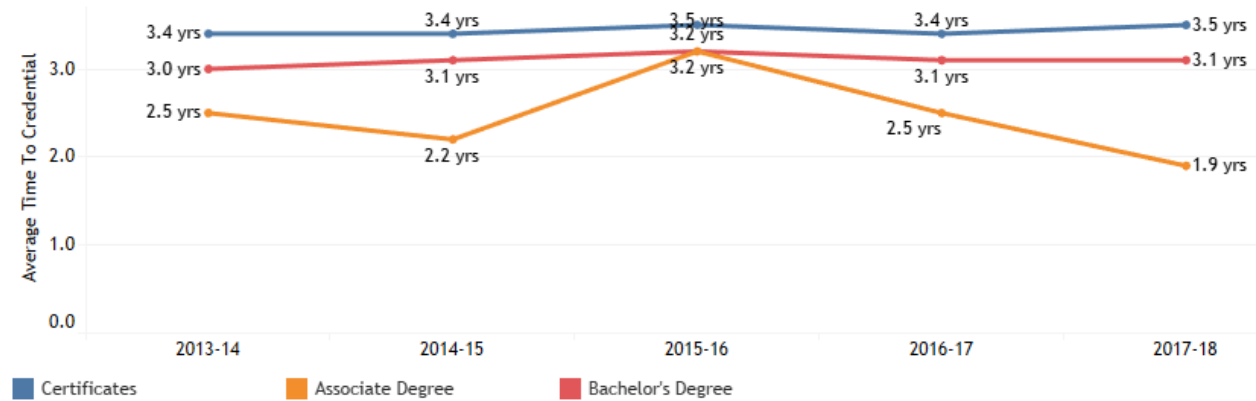
**Average Time To Credential by Year**



Stakeholders next used *Enrollment Type* to filter the dashboard to “Transfer-In” students. As shown in Exhibit 3, time to bachelor’s degree for transfer-in students ranged from a low of 3.0 years (2013–14) to a high of 3.2 years (2015–16) over the five academic years (red line).

**Exhibit 3. Time to Credential/Credentials Conferred Dashboard View 3: Hudson University, Average Time to Credential by Year—Transfer-In Students**

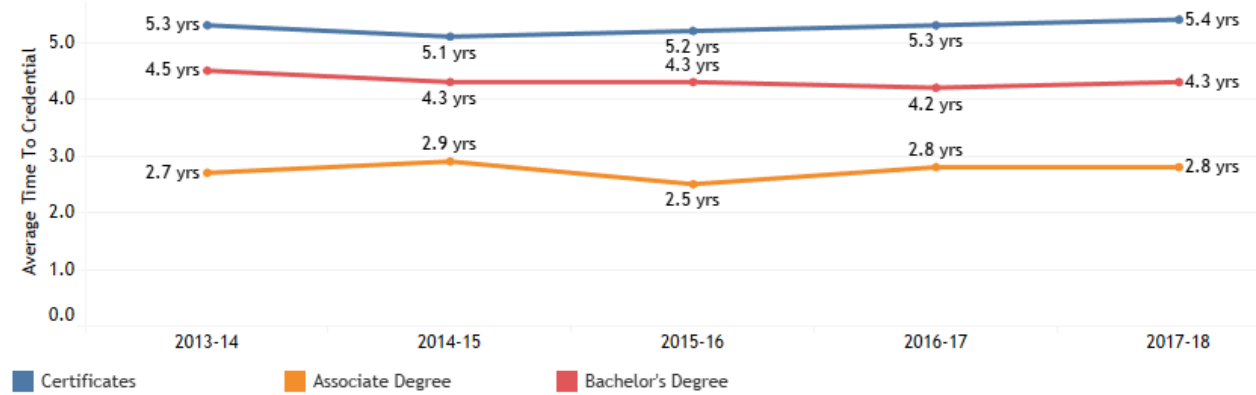
**Average Time To Credential by Year**



Using *Enrollment Type* to filter the dashboard to “First-Time” students, stakeholders noted that the average time to a bachelor’s degree for these students ranged from 4.2 years (2016–17) to 4.5 years (2013–14) (see red line in Exhibit 4). The average time to complete a bachelor’s degree for first-time students was a year more than the average time for transfer-in students.

**Exhibit 4. Time to Credential/Credentials Conferred Dashboard View 4: Hudson University, Average Time to Credential by Year—First-Time Students**

**Average Time To Credential by Year**



Their investigation supported the theory that the average time to a bachelor’s degree varied by transfer status. Stakeholders at Hudson University made it part of their practice to track average time to credential for these two groups separately.