A Study on Undergraduate and Postgraduate Throughput-
A Presentation to Academic Board

An analysis of the 2006 cohort
The University of the West Indies
St. Augustine Campus
Prepared by the Campus Office of Planning and Institutional Research(COPIR)
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Why Measure Throughput?

- A measure for assessing student progression

- Implications for assessing institutional effectiveness

- A measure for comparison against International benchmarks

- A measure of resource efficiency

What has been measured

- **First Year Retention** – the rate of enrolment of students after completing first year

- **Attrition** – the drop-out rate

- **Graduation Rate** - the rate at which students complete their programme at a maximum of 150% of the stipulated time

- **Completion rate** – the proportion of students completing their programme

- **On- time graduation –** The proportion of students completing the degree programme within the minimum stipulated time for completion

- **Average time to graduate –** the average time taken to complete the programme

Limitations of the Study

- Focuses on a single cohort

- Relationship between prior educational achievement and graduation outcomes constrained by variations in measurement of degree honours and disparities in Entry Scores

- Analysis did not account for students awarded the postgraduate diploma due to non-completion of taught masters programmes

- Inability to track MPhil to PhD upgrades

Key Findings

Undergraduate Findings

Faculty	New Enrolment	FYR%	Attrition %	Completion Rate	Graduation Rate	On Time Graduation	Average Time to Graduation
Engineering	450	94%	4%	77.6%	68%	48.6%	3.72
Humanities & Education	608	86%	4%	66.2%	56.4%	51.0%	3.85
Medical Sciences	282	88%	0%	81.5%	78.0%	81.0%	4.58
Science & Agriculture	948	79%	15%	64.4%	52.8%	39.0%	4.61
Social Sciences	1207	87%	12%	71.6%	61.9%	53.7%	3.47
Grand Total	3495	86%	9%	69.5%	60.1%	52.0%	3.67

Postgraduate Findings

Faculty	N	Average Time to Graduate	On Time Graduation Rate	Completion Rate
Engineering	206	4.53	7.1%	41.3%
Science & Agriculture	61	4.70	26.1%	37.7%
Humanities & Education	102	3.49	57.1%	48.0%
Medical Sciences	71	3.91	21.9%	45.1%
Social Sciences	376	3.42	11.7%	70.2%
Grand Total	816	3.74	17.2%	55.5%

Postgraduate Findings

Faculty	Average Time to Graduate	On Time Graduation Rate	Completion Rate
Taught Masters	3.53	13.5%	63.4%
MPhil	6.79	46.2%	14.1%
PhD	4.12	92.3%	48.1%
Grand Total	3.74	17.2%	55.5%

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Comparison to study of 1995 and 1998 cohorts (Greaves& Dass,2003)

	1995	1998	2006
First Year Retention	93.7%	93.2%	86%
Completion Rate	71.3%	72.5%	69.5%
On-time completion	44.8%	49.1%	52%
Average time to complete	3.4 years	3.3 years	3.6 years

Concluding Observations

- Rate of Non- Completion at 30%
- On-time completion (55% UG and 17% PG)
- Lower throughput performance of Evening University students
- Sex Differential

Recommendations

- Encourage Curriculum design that considers the realities of students' prior learning abilities

- Institute a formal tracking and warning system to identify students at risk

- Provide an availability of programmes for remedial work , academic and peer advising

- Expand the first year orientation and experience to support the non-academic support such as workload management , adapting socially , and 'living on your own' workshop