Cohort Time-to-Degree (TTD) Calculation

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) uses two methods for calculating the Time-to-Degree (TTD) of students in entering undergraduate cohorts. The two methods are the

1. academic year basis, and
2. calendar year basis.

The TTD formula is the following.

\[ \text{TTD} = \left( (\text{degree year}) + (\text{degree term}) \right) - (\text{entrance year}) \]

The academic year method is designed so that students in a fall entering cohort who graduate in the spring semester four years later will have a TTD value of 4 years. This reflects the traditional concept of a 4 year degree. This method defines the ‘degree term’ values as

- Spring = 0,
- Summer = 0.333, and
- Fall = 0.667.

So for students that enter in fall 2007 and graduate in the spring of 2011, the formula would be:

\[ 4 = (2011 + 0) - (2007) \]

The calendar year method calculates the actual time between entrance and graduation for students in a cohort. Using the above example of students entering in a fall semester and graduating in the spring semester four years later, the calendar TTD value is 3.67. The ‘degree term’ values for this method are

- Spring = -0.333,
- Summer = 0, and
- Fall = 0.333.

So for students that enter in fall 2007 and graduate in the spring of 2011, the formula would be:

\[ 3.667 = (2011 + (-0.333)) - (2007) \]