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This study was a cooperative effort of the Texas-ACT College Success Research Consortium, a research partnership between ACT and four Texas four-year postsecondary institutions.

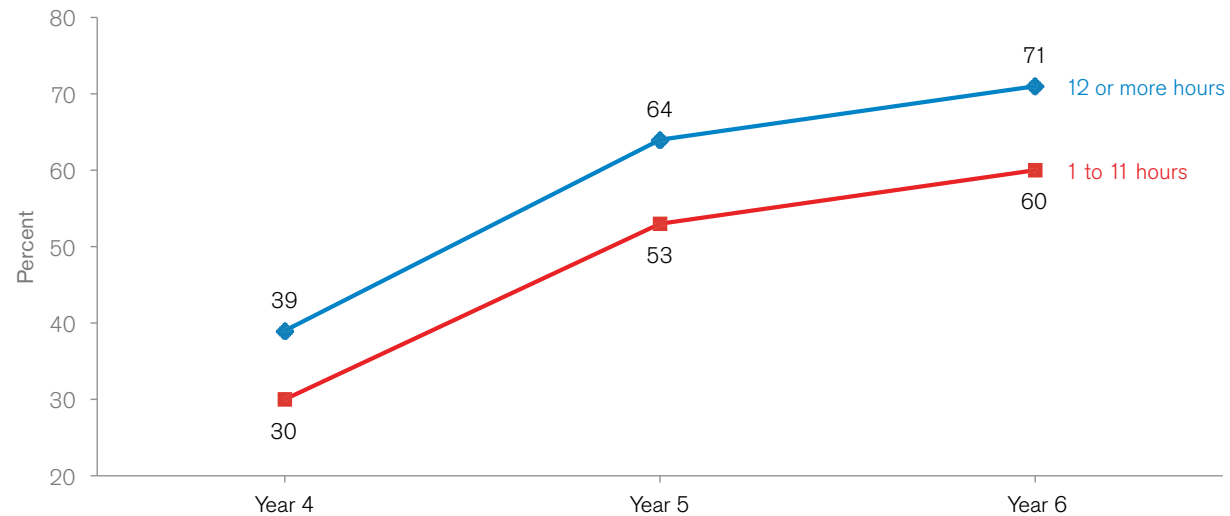
About 42% of incoming students at these institutions entered with dual-credit hours. That is, they had successfully completed college-level courses while in high school.

College success rates over time, including retention rates, were typically higher for students entering college with dual credit than for those entering with no dual credit.

Bachelor's Degree Completion by Number of Dual-Credit Hours

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Students' Chances of Completing a Bachelor's Degree by Number of Dual-Credit Hours



Note: Results based on data from more than 36,000 students who enrolled in one of the four participating Texas postsecondary institutions as first-time entering students in fall 2005 or 2006. Degree completion from initial institution was tracked. For a more detailed description of the study, see [Dual-Credit/Dual-Enrollment Coursework and Long-Term College Success in Texas](#).

Many high school students are taking dual-credit/dual-enrollment courses to get an early start on their college education. A recent study that included data from four Texas four-year postsecondary institutions found that students entering college with dual credit were more likely than those entering without it to succeed in college, even after controlling for Composite score on the ACT® test, total credit by exam hours, and other student and school characteristics related to dual-credit enrollment.¹

To evaluate the benefits associated with entering college with more dual-credit hours, results for students entering with 12 or more hours (about half of the dual-credit students in this study) were compared to those with 1 to 11 hours. Among dual-credit students, those entering

college with 12 or more dual-credit hours had greater chances of completing a bachelor's degree in four, five, or six years (see figure). Moreover, students entering with 12 or more dual-credit hours typically completed a bachelor's degree in a shorter period of time than students entering with 1 to 11 dual-credit hours (typical time to degree: 52 months versus 57 months, respectively).

Some limitations of the study included the small number of participating institutions and the inability to differentiate between transfer and dropout. ■

¹ Justine Radunzel, Julie Noble, and Sue Wheeler, [Dual-Credit/Dual-Enrollment Coursework and Long-Term College Success in Texas](#) (Iowa City, IA: ACT, 2014).