



As many of you are probably aware, State Financial Aid now requires students to take 15 credit hours each semester. Although full-time status is considered attempting 12 credit hours, students will not complete a four-year degree in four years when following this path.

The Office of State Financial Aid, the Mississippi Community College Board, and IHL have collaborated to develop this presentation to educate our state on why taking 15 credit hours per semester is so important.

This presentation will be available of IHL, MCCB, and Financial Aid websites, and you are welcome to use this presentation to help share the message.

So, we have a very clear message to share.

KNOW YOUR PLAN



Know your plan.

KNOW YOUR PLAN

- ▶ **Associate's degrees in Mississippi require 60-62 hours**
- ▶ **Bachelor's degrees in Mississippi require 120-124 hours** *(some require more)*
 - ▶ Remedial courses do not count in your plan.
 - ▶ Undecided students are more likely to take courses not needed and to take less than 15 hours per semester.
 - ▶ Changing majors may add time to degree.

Associate's degrees in Mississippi require 60-62 hours.

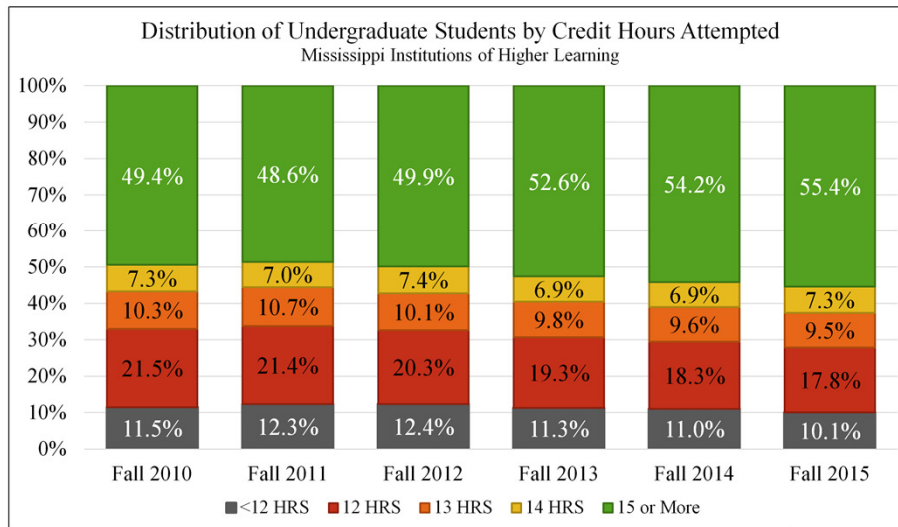
Bachelor's degrees in Mississippi require 120-124 hours.

Remedial courses do not count in your plan.

Undecided students are more likely to take courses not needed and to take less than 15 hours per semester.

Changing majors may add time to degree.

KNOW YOUR PLAN



Source: IHL MIS

Although full-time status within undergraduate programs is considered attempting 12 credit hours, students will not complete a four-year degree in four years when following this path. We have begun to see shifts in the credit hours attempted within Mississippi's public universities. Since fall 2012, the proportion of undergraduate students taking 15 or more credit hours has increased. We hope to continue to see a rise in the percent of students enrolled in 15 or more hours.

KNOW YOUR PLAN

- ▶ **Meet with your advisor to**
 - ▶ discuss your plan,
 - ▶ discuss course selections, and
 - ▶ discuss changes before you make them.

- ▶ **Take the right 15.**

Meet with your advisor to discuss your plan, discuss course selections, and discuss changes before you make them. Meet with your advisor to take the right 15.

GRADUATE ON TIME



Graduate on Time

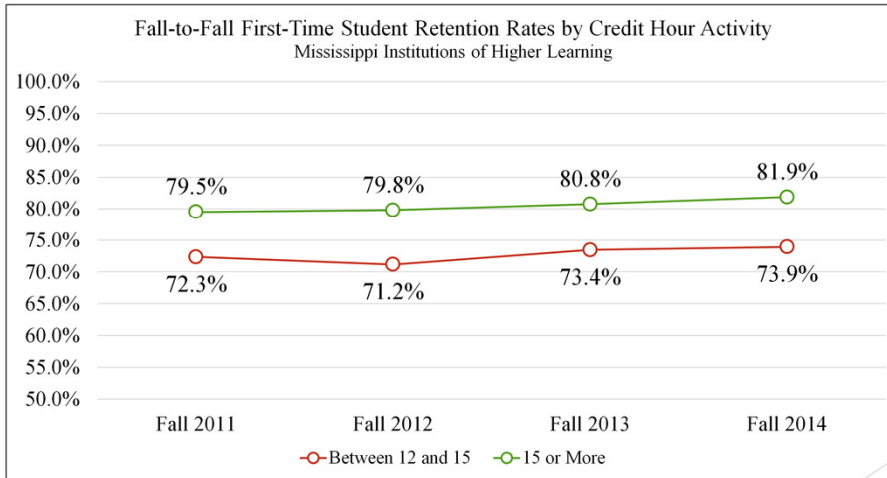
GRADUATE ON TIME

- ▶ At Mississippi's public universities, Three out of five first-time, full-time freshmen earn less than 30 credits their first year, meaning
They are already off track to graduate on time by their sophomore year.

Source: IHL MIS

During a student's first year on campus, it is important to stay on track in order to graduate within four years. At Mississippi's public universities, three out of five incoming freshmen earn less than 30 credit hours during their first year which puts them behind in the path to graduation from the beginning.

GRADUATE ON TIME



Source: IHL MIS

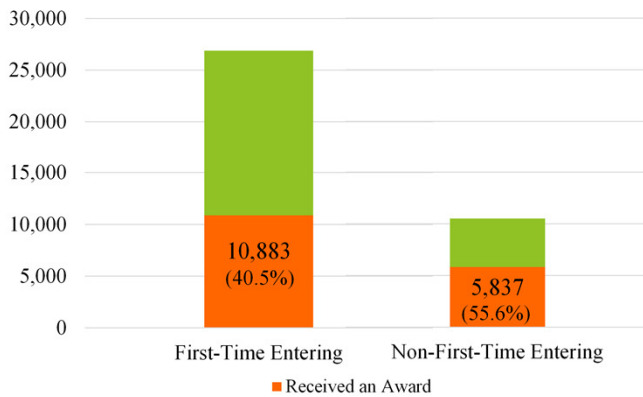
Retaining students from one year to the next is a challenge at many institutions. For Mississippi's public universities, students who enroll in 15 or more credit hours during their freshman year are more likely to be retained at that institution.

This chart shows that 80% or more of students taking 15 or more credit hours return the following fall.

For students taking between 12 and 14 credit hours, their retention rates are lower, around 72-74%.

GRADUATE ON TIME

Entering Cohorts from Fall 2008 and Completers of Awards within 8 Years
Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning & Mississippi Community & Junior Colleges



Source: IPEDS

Very few of our students are graduating on time.

Recent data shows that only 20% of first-time entering freshmen from the fall 2007 semester completed a degree on-time within the state's community colleges and universities.

Over a period of eight years after entering college, only 40.5% of students from the first-time student cohort completed a bachelor's or associate's degree.

For non-first time entering (students coming into an institution with prior college experience after graduating high school), we do not have on-time completion rates but we do know that roughly 55% of these students complete their degree within eight years after entering the institution.

GRADUATE ON TIME

- ▶ Research shows that the longer you stay in school, the less likely you are to graduate.

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GRADUATE ON TIME

- ▶ The sooner you earn your degree, the sooner you can get going with your career and start earning money.

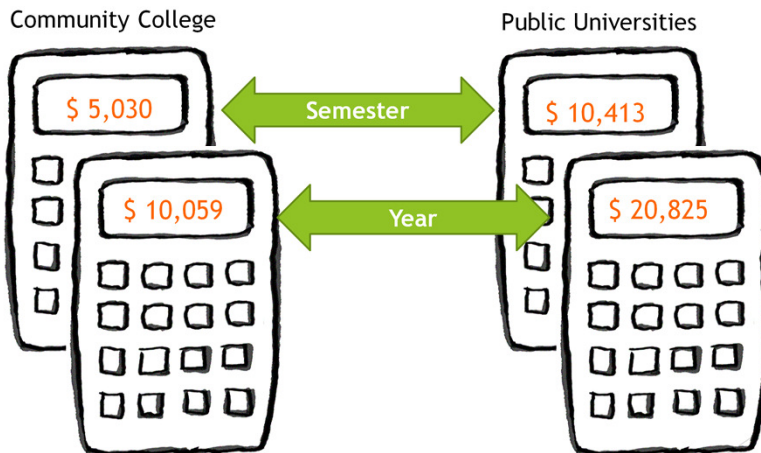
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Save Money

SAVE MONEY

► The average cost of college in Mississippi



Figures represent total cost of attendance for in-state resident first-time in college students for 2015-16
Source: IPEDS

As of fall 2015, the average cost of a semester at a Mississippi community college was \$5,030 and \$10,059 for one year.

This includes the cost of tuition, fees, room and board, books, and other expenses.

The average cost of one semester of college at a public university is \$10,413 or \$20,825 for the full year.

SAVE MONEY

- ▶ If you don't graduate on time, adding one year - or even one semester - to your cost is expensive!

\$ 67,000

Cost of 1 Additional Year in a Public University

Figure represents average total cost of attendance for 2015-16 plus the median salary for first-year bachelor degree recipients from the southeast region.
Source: IPEDS, NACE

Not graduating on time can result in lost wages and additional costs for tuition and other costs related to education (e.g., books). Using data from the National Association for Colleges and Employers, the cost of one additional year of college at a public university in Mississippi is close to \$67,000.

This is based on the median annual wage for recent bachelor's degree recipients in the southeastern region and the cost of attendance figures presented on the last slide.

SAVE MONEY

- ▶ Taking 15 credits a semester is the same cost as taking 12 credits at most of Mississippi's 2-year and 4-year institutions.

You're getting 3 credits for FREE!

Taking 15 credits a semester is the same cost as taking 12 credits at most of Mississippi's 2-year and 4-year institutions.

So, you're getting 3 credits for free!

SAVE MONEY

- ▶ State financial aid is limited to 8 semesters
- ▶ State financial aid requires enrollment in and completion of 15 credit hours per semester

More than 8 semesters = NO State Aid

Less than 15 credits per semester =
NO State Aid

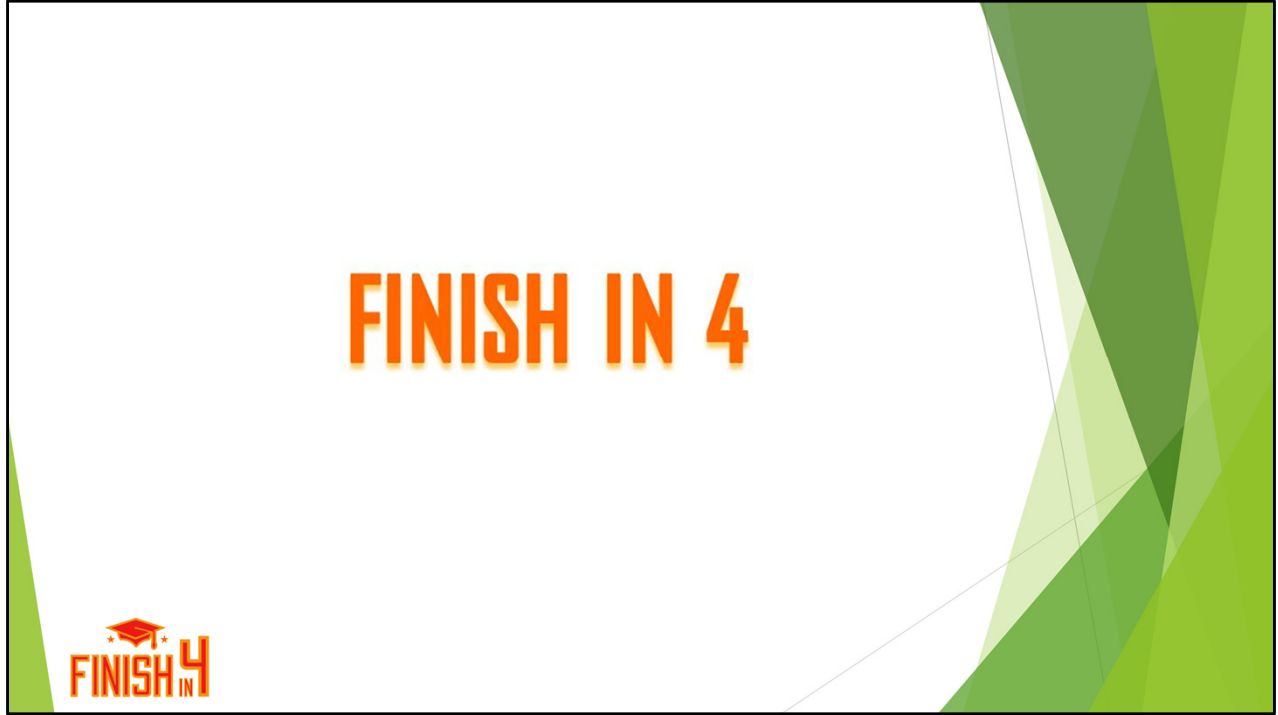
TAKE ★ 15!

State financial aid is limited to 8 semesters

State financial aid requires enrollment in and completion of 15 credit hours per semester

So, if you attend college for more than 8 semesters, you do not get state financial aid.

And, if you take less than 15 credits per semester, you do not get state financial aid.



So, the message is clear. We want our students to finish in 4.

FINISH IN 4

- ▶ Know Your Plan
- ▶ Graduate on Time
- ▶ Save Money



Know your plan

Graduate on time

Save money

Finish in 4

RISE★UP!

► RiseUpMS.com

Graduates
Mississippi's
Advising STUDENTS
PARENTS GED
Counselors **PLAN**
Free Best
Career One Stop Shop
RISE★UP!
Adult Students
Teachers **Manage**
PAY FOR COLLEGE
Transferring **Prepare**
SEEKING
Resources

Here is a resource website for you.

RiseUpMS.com

State Financial Aid and the MATT are located on this website.

TAKE ★ 15!



FINISH IN 4

Graduates
Mississippi's
Parents
Parents' GED
Counselors
Free Budget
Course Plan
RISE ★ UPI
Adults
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PAY FOR COLLEGE
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