

Will studying abroad affect your expected graduation date?

Studying Abroad and Graduation

One reason some students do not go abroad to study is because they believe it will extend their expected graduation date. However, data shows that studying abroad does not necessarily increase the amount of time it takes for students to graduate. It is true that time until graduation could be increased because of making decisions that do not take into account degree plan requirements. Yet, with adequate planning ahead of time, students can graduate in their expected amount of time.

The Office of Institutional Studies and Planning examined graduation data for the entering 4,756 students in Fall 1999. From that total, 67 students had studied abroad and 4,686 had not. The average length of time to graduation of these students was computed (see table). It was found that students who studied abroad took, on average, 10.33 Texas A&M University semesters to graduate, whereas, those who did not go abroad took 10.08 Texas A&M University semesters. Overall, even including non-Texas A&M semesters, both groups still took approximately the same number of semesters to graduate.

The length of time to graduate for the two groups is not significantly different. Students are strongly encouraged to work with a study abroad advisor and their academic advisor to plan a study abroad experience into their degree plans so they do not impact the length of time to graduate.

Length of Time for Graduation: With & Without Study Abroad Experience

	Total Semesters	Total Texas A&M Semesters
Study Abroad Experience		
Mean	12.06	10.33
Standard Deviation	1.97	1.53
Total participants	67	67
No Study Abroad Experience		
Mean	12.04	10.08
Standard Deviation	1.80	1.50
Total participants	4,689	4,689



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