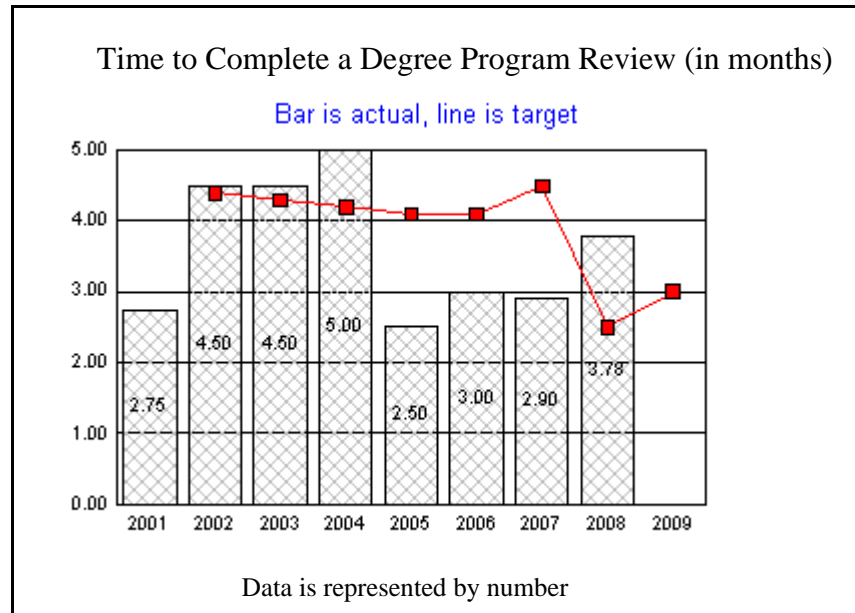


KPM #2	Time to complete a degree program review.	1999
Goal	Goal 2: Protect the value of a college degree	
Oregon Context	Oregon Benchmarks #24, #25, #26	
Data Source	ODA tracking spreadsheet (contains all needed data)	
Owner	Office of Degree Authorization (ODA), Alan Contreras, Administrator, (541) 687-7452	



1. OUR STRATEGY

Review new programs first, develop ways to avoid duplicate reviews; evaluate staffing patterns.

2. ABOUT THE TARGETS

Targets are based on known arrival dates of renewals, projected arrivals of new programs and available staff resources. Achieving results below the target is good.

3. HOW WE ARE DOING

ODA had reduced the time for completion of program reviews in recent years; however, increased workload in 2007-08 has increased the average time to completion of reviews by nearly a month. The number of programs reviewed was twice as many as last year and nearly triple what had been expected. Three existing schools with a great number of programs had new and renewal applications in for review.

Eight of the other applications were especially problematic, involving a great deal of ODA involvement. These included applications from five schools new to Oregon or to degree-level programs in Oregon. Several schools required extra time to bring their applications to required standards. One of the schools simply allowed its application to lapse after ODA's initial response.

So that schools trying to develop new programs were not unduly delayed, the new programs were inserted into the schedule ahead of renewal programs, even if the renewal applications had already been received. This increased the average time for completion, but had no ill effect on the operation of existing programs.

4. HOW WE COMPARE

In 2007, ODA asked other states that conduct a complete review of programs how long it takes them to conduct reviews. Reviews varied somewhat, but most look at the same kinds of issues. Responses follow:

Arkansas - 3 to 6 months, sometimes longer

California - 3 years (some preliminary actions sooner)

Florida - 3 months

Georgia - 3 to 4 months

Kentucky - 1 to 2 months

Minnesota - 6 months

Missouri - 6 months

New Jersey - 6 to 12 months

Ohio - 4 to 5 months

South Carolina - 4 to 6 months

Texas - 6 to 9 months

5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS

The primary variable is that when a school wants to start a completely new program, we give that application priority in order to allow the school to respond quickly to societal needs. The arrival of such a program means that renewals are held up for a while. However, this has no significant negative effect on the renewing schools because ODA rules allow existing programs to keep operating while the review is happening.

6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Our opinion is that the current average turnaround time of less than four months per program cannot be significantly reduced with a two-person staff. Application level is not high enough to justify additional review staff. Depending on the unit's budget, we could use contracted reviewers during "bubble" periods, but in practice this does not work well because the bubbles involve so many programs from a small number of schools. We would have duplicated effort with more than one person evaluating the same issues at ITT, for example. In 2007-08, four reviews were done by contracted reviewers, but the contracting did not reduce the average time for completion.

7. ABOUT THE DATA

ODA applications are tracked by month in a spreadsheet. Both scheduling and projected revenue data can be generated from the spreadsheet. For most reporting, we use the state biennium as our standard framework.