BACCALAUREATE DEGREE COMPLETION TIME OF STUDENTS AT THE TWO-YEAR COLLEGE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

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BACCALAUREATE DEGREE COMPLETION TIME FOR TWO-YEAR COLLEGE STUDENTS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
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RESEARCH PROBLEM
Students choosing the two-year college system as an entry point for completing the baccalaureate degree may experience additional time for degree completion. The problem with this delay is the financial burden placed on students by incurring additional expenses and prolonging the time required to enter careers in their chosen discipline.

LEADERSHIP QUESTION
Have policy and initiatives (interventions) improved baccalaureate degree completion time for students?

MUS Transfer Policy (State)
Common Course Numbering: statewide catalog of courses
MUS General Education Core: single set of general education requirements for all students
High School Dual-Credit: early college for HS students
Advising Plans & Advising Center: provide a clearly defined path for students

METHOD
Data Collection: Public Data Method
The study was purposefully designed to rely solely on publicly available data. The public data method uses those elements of the student record considered “Directory Information” by FERPA and the Office of the Registrar at the University of Montana.

UM has designated the following information about students as public (directory) information, which may be released to the public: Dates of attendance, School or College, Date of graduation and degree(s) received. IRB approval was obtained prior to initiating the research study.

Inference: Statistics
Chi-Square Effect Size
\[ r = \sqrt{\frac{X^2}{(n^2 - 1)}} \]

FINDINGS
Of the 1886 baccalaureate degree student graduating during 2014, 172 (9%) used the two-year college in completing the degree at UM. Of these 172 Baccalaureate Degree completers, only 30 finished the AA degree while 8 finished the AAS degree. A study comparing differences in degree completion time using total credits completed could yield new information.