
Identifying Potential Graduates to help with HB8

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Who is Alvin College?

Alvin College is a medium sized HSI college just south of Houston

We have a Fall unduplicated enrollment of around 6,300

78% of our students are part-time

Student Information System: Ellucian Colleague

Data Warehouse: Zogotech

Analysis and Dashboarding: Tableau

Our IER office consists of 5 full-time staff – 2 data focused, 2 assessment based, and a Dean

Outcomes of This Session

1. Understand the challenges associated with identifying potential graduates and recognize the limitations of existing systems and staffing.
2. Explore the benefits of using simple searches to build a process to identify the students.
3. Gain insights into strategies like identifying alternate degree options and off-path courses and learn how these interventions can effectively assist students in completing their educational programs.

Topics to be Covered

Tips and ideas to identify potential graduates as you enter a semester and how to find missed graduates after the semester ends

Strategies that might be quick to implement:

- Possible Completers

- Near Completers

- Off-Path

Tracking Potential Graduates at Alvin - Historical

Tracking students can be difficult given your resources, tools, and software.

Once we added a data warehouse, we started having a faster mechanism to track student completion beyond an autograd process. Before that, it was a manual process and typically done program by program.

We've been working with Zogotech to speed up the process of identifying possible graduates.

Possible Completers – Completers that haven't been awarded

One type of student is the one that may have completed but not been awarded for some reason.

In our Student Information System, the Autograd is very thorough... but...

Our datawarehouse can run every student against every degree and then lists possible degrees that a student could be eligible for.

There are caveats on this and it requires human intervention, but we can typically find some that were overlooked, especially in certificates.

Possible Completers – Completed but not awarded?

Pathways - Completed but NOT Awarded - Any Program (MN1)

Report Filters

Degree Awarded is No

Requirements Remaining is 0

Student Last Term Academic Years Ago is in list (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Academic Goal /	Student ID	Unduplicated Headcount ↓
AA General Studies-Dual		199
AA General Studies		118
Field of Study/Nursing		76
CE Certified Nurse Aid		20
AS Health Science		18
Field of Study/Business		17
Field of Study/Respiratory Care		12
CE Clinical Medical Assistant		8
Field of Study/Criminal Justice		8
AAT Grades 7-12		6
CERT1 Pharmacy Technician (CERT1.PHARM)		6

Possible Completers – Completed but not awarded?

Starting in Fall 2024, we began running the process to identify possible completers.

In 2024-2025 we found 45 associates and 53 certs that our autograd missed.
Minimum outcome funding: \$250,250

Time taken – 3 hours total between IER and Admissions per semester

In Fall 2025, we found 20 Associates and 39 certificates. Minimum funding: \$138,250

Many of these were awarded to students with complex transcripts and transfer credits or certificates that the SIS system had some issues with.

Near Completers

Near completers are students that are within a few credits of completion. They should finish this semester.

What's critical about these students is that you need to make sure they are staying on track. These students are the ones you want to watch carefully if you have early alerts or anything that can warn you of them slipping.

Near Completers

Our system has a “3 or less classes” category that allows us to look at the registered students and identify any that have 3 or less classes.

We are predominantly PT so students typically take 2-3 classes in a semester.

Pathways ... Pathways - 3 or Less Requirements Remaining in Current Program

Report Filters

Academic Goal Exists is Yes

Degree Awarded is No

Student Active Program /	Student ID	Unduplicated Headcount
AA Art		48
AA Criminal Justice		36
AA Drama		11
AA General Studies		2803
AA History		9
AA Music-Instrumental		11
AA Music-Voice		9
AA Musical Theatre		5
AA Psychology		86
AA Sociology		15

Near Completers – Major Changes

Another area to watch for is students who may be able to graduate earlier under a different major.

In the next example, there is a Business Administration Major that is actually closer on their History degree.

Possible Completers – Major Changes

Academic

Active Program AS Business Administration

Declared Program AS Business Administration

First Term Enrolled / Last Term Enrolled 2025 Spring / 2025 Spring

Admission Basis Transient

GPA

Cumulative Completed Overall Credits 0

Cumulative Credits

Degrees Awarded

Degree	Major
High School	--

Displaying academic progress for based on

1-10 of 39 < >

	Catalog	Academic Goal		Remaining
+	2023	AS Business Administration	Active Program	-- 20 → 19
+	2023	AA History	--	-- 15 → 14

Near Completers - Majors

Academic Goal			Remaining
AS Business Administration	Active Program	---	11 → 7
AA General Studies	--	---	9 → 4
AA General Studies-Dual	--	--	9 → 5
AAT EC-Grade 6 & Other Certification Areas	--	--	11 → 9
AAT Grades 7-12	--	--	9 → 7
AS Mathematics	--	--	11 → 9
AA Psychology	--	--	12 → 9
AA Criminal Justice	--	---	13 → 10

Near Completers - Majors

Or this Engineering student who might want to switch?

Catalog	Academic Goal			Remaining	Contributing	Registered	Completed (%)
+ 2023	AS Engineering	Active Program	--	18 → 15	1 → 4	3	5% → 21%
+ 2023	AA History	--	--	13 → 11	2 → 4	3	13% → 26%
+ 2023	AAT Grades 7-12	--	--	14 → 11	2 → 5	3	12% → 31%
+ 2023	AS Biological Science	--	--	16 → 14	2 → 4	2	11% → 22%
+ 2023	AAS Process Technology	--	--	16 → 15	2 → 3	1	11% → 16%
+ 2023	AS Computer Information Technology-Computer Science	--	--	16 → 15	2 → 3	2	11% → 16%

Near Completers - Majors

Or this General Studies student who is closer to 2 other degrees.

	Catalog	Academic Goal		Remaining	Contributing	Registered	Completed (%)	On Path (%)	
+	2019	AA General Studies	Active Program	--	10 → 8	10 → 12	0	50% → 60%	100%
+	2020	AA General Studies	Active Program	--	10 → 8	10 → 12	0	50% → 60%	100%
+	2021	AA General Studies	Active Program	--	10 → 8	10 → 12	0	50% → 60%	100%
+	2022	AA General Studies	Active Program	--	10 → 8	10 → 12	0	50% → 60%	100%
+	2019	AAT Grades 7-12	--	--	6 → 5	10 → 11	0	62% → 68%	100%
+	2020	AAT Grades 7-12	--	--	6 → 5	10 → 11	0	62% → 68%	100%
+	2021	AAT Grades 7-12	--	--	6 → 5	10 → 11	0	62% → 68%	100%
+	2022	AAT Grades 7-12	--	--	6 → 5	10 → 11	0	62% → 68%	100%
+	2019	AS Biological Science	--	--	8 → 7	10 → 11	0	55% → 61%	100%
+	2020	AS Biological Science	--	--	8 → 7	10 → 11	0	55% → 61%	100%

Near Completers - Catalogs

Our system compares the students against their catalog and the last 8. In this case you can see the student's catalog of 2019 is better for them than the new one. We often find the reverse as well, that a newer catalog benefits the student more.

	Catalog	Academic Goal		Remaining	Contributing	Registered	Completed (%)	On Path (%)	
+	2016	AA Art	Active Program	--	11 → 4	9 → 16	2	45% → 80%	83% → 89%
+	2017	AA Art	Active Program	--	11 → 4	9 → 16	2	45% → 80%	83% → 89%
+	2018	AA Art	Active Program	--	11 → 4	9 → 16	2	45% → 80%	83% → 89%
+	2019	AA Art	Active Program	--	11 → 4	9 → 16	2	45% → 80%	83% → 89%
+	2020	AA Art	Active Program	--	12 → 5	8 → 15	2	40% → 75%	83% → 89%
+	2021	AA Art	Active Program	--	12 → 5	8 → 15	2	40% → 75%	83% → 89%
+	2022	AA Art	Active Program	--	12 → 5	8 → 15	2	40% → 75%	75% → 84%

Off Path

One of the biggest issues is students taking courses that are off path – or off degree.

Sometimes it is due to students making mistakes in their registration, especially with self registration, and taking courses that they do not need.

This can impact the time to completion, tuition costs of the student, or even their financial aid if they get too far off path.

Off Path

In this example we've already identified some off-path students.

Off Path: In Program: In Progress: Extra	280	230
Off Path: In Program: In Progress: Extra, Previously Completed	148	129

When drilling in, we find a History major retaking classes they passed

Term ▼	Status	Requirement Type	Requirement	Outcome
2025 Spring	→ Contributing	Class	astr-1404	In Progress
2025 Spring	→ Contributing	Class	spch-1315	In Progress
2025 Spring	→ Extra	Class	hist-2301	In Progress
2025 Spring	→ Extra	Class	span-1411	In Progress

Off Path

We have also found students retaking Biology and Math.

When we identify these students during registration, we have time to contact the students and determine their intent.

Why are they in the class, was it on purpose, did they realize it was not needed, etc...

What's Next?

As we are slowly developing these tools, we are working with our Advisors to intervene and discuss with students their progress and any of the elements we have found.

We have successfully identified and corrected numerous oversights that occur when processes are manual, such as some graduation and enrollment.

What's Next?

We are working to create the early enrollment issues – such as Off-Path and Near Completers – into an “Extra early” early alert.

We are testing rolling out reports that will target any students that are closer to completion in a different degree to our Advisors, so they can discuss with our students their options.

But I don't have a Datawarehouse... what can I do?

Go after low hanging fruit and use data you can get.

- Get a list of all majors with at least 50+ credits. Look to see what they need to complete.
- Get a list of all students with 60-70 credits. Are they complete and don't know it?
- Look for any Technical majors with 50 credits that are in classes that might not be in their major.
- Look at any degrees that have certs embedded. Did everyone who started within a year get awarded?
- Look for any oddities – did a whole class get Incompletes? (true story) Did that delay their graduation?

Discussion and Questions

Thank you for being here and listening to some of the strategies that might produce quick results and can be achievable with even limited resources.

Does anyone have any questions?

Contact me at psanger@alvincollege.edu

Scan the QR code to
complete the
session survey.

