

Updated November 6, 2009:

The most recent time-to-completion results for PhD and Master's students (results as of February 28, 2006). The median times-to-completion vary considerably across programs, with an overall median of 2.0 years for Master's programs and 4.7 years for PhD programs.

Results from the previous study (2004) are presented for comparison, and reveal a clear decrease over time in median time-to-completion for PhD students, while maintaining or reducing withdrawal rates in all Faculties.

McMaster surpasses the G13 average in the proportion of PhD students graduating within 5 years (see figure 2 in the Provost's State of the Academy Address):

http://www.mcmaster.ca/vpacademic/documents/SOTA2009_000.pdf

**Academic Results for Students Entering Doctoral Study
on A Full-Time Basis
During the Period September 1996 - August 2001
(Results as of February 28, 2006)**

Faculty	Program	Total #	Completed			Withdrawn			In Progress	
			#	%	Median Years	#	%	Median Years	#	%
ENGINEERING	Chemical	40	28	70%	4.3	8	20%	0.3	4	10%
	Civil	21	14	67%	4.0	5	24%	0.3	2	10%
	Electrical & Computer	37	25	68%	4.3	10	27%	0.3	2	5%
	Eng. Physics	18	13	72%	4.3	5	28%	1.0	0	0%
	Materials	18	16	89%	4.0	1	6%	6.0	1	6%
	Mechanical	21	18	86%	4.7	1	5%	0.3	2	10%
	Total	155	114	74%	4.3	30	19%	0.7	11	7%
SCIENCE	Biochemistry	36	20	56%	5.3	11	31%	0.7	5	14%
	Biology	48	32	67%	4.3	10	21%	0.3	6	13%
	Chemistry	56	48	86%	3.3	7	13%	1.7	1	2%
	Geography, Earth & Environmental	28	18	64%	4.3	8	29%	1.7	2	7%
	Math	19	8	42%	5.0	10	53%	1.0	1	5%
	Physics	38	27	71%	4.3	8	21%	1.7	3	8%
	Psychology	41	31	76%	4.0	9	22%	0.3	1	2%
Total	266	184	69%	4.3	63	24%	1.0	19	7%	
HEALTH SCIENCES	H. R. M.	12	8	67%	5.0	2	17%	0.3	2	17%
	Medical Sciences	53	44	83%	4.3	7	13%	1.0	2	4%
	Nursing	9	7	78%	3.3	0	0%	0.0	2	22%
	Total	74	59	80%	4.3	9	12%	1.0	6	8%
BUSINESS	Human Resources	10	7	70%	4.7	3	30%	1.3	0	0%
	Management Science	18	9	50%	4.7	8	44%	1.0	1	6%
	Total	28	16	57%	4.7	11	39%	1.3	1	4%
HUMANITIES	Classics	9	4	44%	4.7	3	33%	4.0	2	22%
	English	37	24	65%	5.0	11	30%	3.0	2	5%
	History	22	10	45%	5.0	10	45%	3.0	2	9%
	Philosophy	14	8	57%	5.0	4	29%	0.3	2	14%
	Total	82	46	56%	5.0	28	34%	3.0	8	10%
SOCIAL SCIENCE	Anthropology	25	13	52%	5.3	10	40%	2.0	2	8%
	Economics	20	10	50%	5.3	8	40%	1.0	2	10%
	Human Biodynamics	11	10	91%	4.0	0	0%	0.0	1	9%
	Political Science	11	7	64%	5.0	2	18%	0.3	2	18%
	Religious Studies	35	12	34%	5.3	17	49%	6.0	6	17%
	Sociology	37	14	38%	4.7	20	54%	4.0	3	8%
	Total	139	66	47%	5.0	57	41%	4.0	16	12%
GRAND TOTAL		744	485	65%	4.7	198	27%	1.3	61	8%

**Academic Results for Students Entering Master's Study on A Full-Time Basis
During the Period September 2001 - August 2004
(Results as of February 28, 2006)**

Faculty	Program	Total #	Transfer			Completed			Withdrawn			In Progress	
			#	%	Median Years	#	%	Median Years	#	%	Median Years	#	%
ENGINEERING	Chemical	36	5	14%	1.3	24	67%	2.0	4	11%	0.7	3	8%
	Civil	32	5	16%	2.0	18	56%	2.0	5	16%	0.7	4	13%
	Computing & Software	73	2	3%	2.0	54	74%	2.0	10	14%	0.7	7	10%
	Electrical & Computer	124	28	23%	1.7	76	61%	2.0	12	10%	0.7	8	6%
	Eng. Physics	37	9	24%	2.0	28	76%	2.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%
	Materials	41	14	34%	2.0	22	54%	2.0	3	7%	0.7	2	5%
	Mechanical	50	5	10%	2.0	33	66%	2.0	7	14%	1.0	5	10%
	Total	393	68	17%	2.0	255	65%	2.0	41	10%	1.0	29	7%
SCIENCE	Biochemistry	51	24	47%	2.0	15	29%	2.3	5	10%	1.3	7	14%
	Biology	69	19	28%	2.0	38	55%	2.0	8	12%	1.0	4	6%
	Chemistry	67	21	31%	2.0	28	42%	2.0	10	15%	0.7	8	12%
	Geography, Earth & Environmental	37	1	3%	2.0	26	70%	2.0	7	19%	0.3	3	8%
	Math	29	5	17%	1.3	20	69%	2.0	4	14%	0.7	0	0%
	Physics	58	26	45%	2.0	19	33%	2.0	9	16%	1.3	4	7%
	Psychology	27	24	89%	1.0	2	7%	1.0	1	4%	1.0	0	0%
	Statistics	43	0	0%	0.0	38	88%	1.7	5	12%	0.3	0	0%
	Total	381	120	31%	2.0	186	49%	2.0	49	13%	0.7	26	7%
	HEALTH SCIENCES	H. R. M.	43	5	12%	1.7	17	40%	2.0	3	7%	1.0	18
Medical Sciences		143	46	32%	2.0	71	50%	2.0	10	7%	1.7	16	11%
Nursing		35	3	9%	2.0	22	63%	2.7	3	9%	1.0	7	20%
Occupational Therapy		151	0	0%	0.0	147	97%	2.0	3	2%	0.7	1	1%
Physiotherapy		159	0	0%	0.0	150	94%	2.0	7	4%	0.3	2	1%
Rehab Science		8	0	0%	0.0	6	75%	2.0	1	13%	2.7	1	13%
Total		539	54	10%	2.0	413	77%	2.0	27	5%	1.0	45	8%
HUMANITIES	Classics	15	0	0%	0.0	12	80%	2.0	3	20%	1.0	0	0%
	English	65	0	0%	0.0	61	94%	1.0	4	6%	0.7	0	0%
	French	21	0	0%	0.0	19	90%	1.0	2	10%	2.0	0	0%
	History	34	0	0%	0.0	30	88%	1.0	4	12%	0.3	0	0%
	Music Criticism	11	0	0%	0.0	8	73%	2.0	2	18%	0.3	1	9%
	Philosophy	17	0	0%	0.0	8	47%	2.0	8	47%	2.0	1	6%
	Total	163	0	0%	0.0	138	85%	1.0	23	14%	1.0	2	1%
	SOCIAL SCIENCE	Anthropology	16	1	6%	2.0	14	88%	2.0	0	0%	0.0	1
Economics		54	0	0%	0.0	48	89%	1.0	5	9%	0.3	1	2%
Human Biodynamics		34	4	12%	2.0	25	74%	2.0	2	6%	0.3	3	9%
Political Science		57	0	0%	0.0	55	96%	1.0	2	4%	0.3	0	0%
Religious Studies		23	1	4%	1.0	17	74%	2.0	4	17%	0.3	1	4%
Social Work		30	0	0%	0.0	28	93%	1.0	2	7%	0.3	0	0%
Sociology		17	1	6%	2.3	16	94%	1.0	0	0%	0.0	0	0%
Work & Society		20	0	0%	0.0	17	85%	1.0	3	15%	2.0	0	0%
Total		251	7	3%	2.0	220	88%	1.0	18	7%	0.3	6	2%
GRAND TOTAL		1,727	249	14%	2.0	1,212	70%	2.0	158	9%	1.0	108	6%

The following results are old data, from the previous study (based on data from 2004), presented for comparison only.

**Academic Results for Students Entering Doctoral Study on A Full Time Basis
During the Period September 1993 - August 1998 (Results as of August 31, 2004)**

Faculty	Number	% Completed	Median Years to Completion	% Withdrawn	Median Years to Withdrawal	% In Progress
Engineering	153	76%	4.3	21%	2.6	3%
Science	270	75%	4.4	24%	0.9	1%
Health Science	69	81%	4.1	14%	0.9	4%
Business	25	48%	4.3	52%	1.3	0%
Humanities	81	57%	5.0	41%	5.0	2%
Social Science	138	50%	5.3	47%	4.0	3%
Total	736	68%		30%		2%

Faculty: Engineering

Program	Number	% Completed	Median Years to Completion	% Withdrawn	Median Years to Withdrawal	% In Progress
Chemical Eng.	30	77%	4.7	23%	0.3	0%
Civil Eng.	24	83%	4.0	13%	0.7	4%
Electrical & Computer	43	65%	4.7	35%	0.7	0%
Engineering Physics	17	82%	4.0	12%	0.7	6%
Materials Eng.	19	84%	3.7	16%	6.0	0%
Mechanical Eng.	20	80%	4.7	10%	7.0	10%
Total	153	76%	4.3	21%	1.0	3%

Faculty: Science

Program	Number	% Completed	Median Years to Completion	% Withdrawn	Median Years to Withdrawal	% In Progress
Biochemistry	31	77%	5.7	19%	0.3	3%
Biology	42	76%	5.0	21%	0.3	2%
Chemistry	54	89%	3.3	11%	1.0	0%
Geology/Geography	39	79%	4.3	21%	1.7	0%
Math	18	33%	4.3	61%	1.0	6%
Physics	44	73%	4.0	27%	1.7	0%
Psychology	42	69%	4.0	31%	0.3	0%
Total	270	75%	4.3	24%	1.0	1%

Faculty: Health Science

Program	Number	% Completed	Median Years to Completion	% Withdrawn	Median Years to Withdrawal	% In Progress
Health Research Meth.	2	100%	4.7	0%		0%
Medical Sciences	62	81%	4.0	15%	0.7	5%
Nursing	5	80%	3.7	20%	1.0	0%
Total	69	81%	4.0	14%	0.7	4%

Faculty: Business

Program	Number	% Completed	Median Years to Completion	% Withdrawn	Median Years to Withdrawal	% In Progress
Human Resources	9	56%	3.7	44%	1.3	0%
Management Science	16	44%	4.3	56%	1.0	0%
Total	25	48%	4.3	52%	1.3	0%

Faculty: Humanities

Program	Number	% Completed	Median Years to Completion	% Withdrawn	Median Years to Withdrawal	% In Progress
Classics	10	60%	4.7	40%	4.0	0%
English	34	53%	5.0	47%	5.0	0%
History	19	47%	6.0	53%	3.7	0%
Philosophy	18	72%	4.7	17%	3.0	11%
Total	81	57%	5.0	41%	5.0	2%

Faculty: Social Science

Program	Number	% Completed	Median Years to Completion	% Withdrawn	Median Years to Withdrawal	% In Progress
Anthropology	34	74%	5.7	26%	6.0	0%
Economics	24	50%	5.0	46%	1.7	4%
Political Science	12	42%	5.3	42%	0.7	17%
Religious Studies	30	47%	5.7	50%	5.0	3%
Sociology	38	34%	4.7	63%	4.0	3%
Total	138	50%	5.3	47%	4.0	3%

The following results are old data, from the previous study (based on data from 2004), presented for comparison only.

**Academic Results for Students Entering Master's Study
on A Full Time Basis
During the Period September 1996 - August 2001
(Results as of August 31, 2004)**

Faculty	Number	Transferred to PhD		Completed		Withdrew		% In Progress
		%	Median Years	%	Median Years	%	Median Years	
Engineering	455	17%	1.7	68%	2.3	14%	1.7	1%
Science	443	30%	2.0	58%	2.0	11%	1.0	0%
Health Science	335	15%	2.0	72%	2.0	11%	1.0	2%
Humanities	300	0%		87%	1.0	12%	1.0	1%
Social Sciences	415	3%	1.0	87%	1.0	10%	1.0	0%
Total	1948	14%	2.0	74%	2.0	12%	1.0	1%

The following results are old data, from the previous study (based on data from 2004), presented for comparison only.

Results for Students Entering the PhD September 1993 - August 1998

Faculty

Science and Engineering

	Results 93-98	Mac 92 Cohort	National 92 Cohort
# of Students	423	83	1269
% Successfully Completed	75	80	71
Median Years to Completion	4.3	4.3	4.7
% Withdrawn from Studies	23	19	27
Median Years to Withdrawal	1.0	1.5	2.0
% Still Unknown	2	1	2

Health Science

	Results 93-98	Mac 92 Cohort	National 92 Cohort
# of Students	69	25	732
% Successfully Completed	81	92	74
Median Years to Completion	4.0	4.7	5.0
% Withdrawn from Studies	14	8	25
Median Years to Withdrawal	0.7	3.2	2.7
% Still Unknown	4	0	1

Faculty

Social Sciences

	Results 93-98	Mac 92 Cohort	National 92 Cohort
# of Students	138	36	1141
% Successfully Completed	50	69	55
Median Years to Completion	5.3	4.7	5.7
% Withdrawn from Studies	47	28	40
Median Years to Withdrawal	4.0	2.7	2.7
% Still Unknown	3	3	5

Humanities

	Results 93-98	Mac 92 Cohort	National 92 Cohort
# of Students	81	25	654
% Successfully Completed	57	48	46
Median Years to Completion	5.0	6.2	5.7
% Withdrawn from Studies	41	44	47
Median Years to Withdrawal	5.0	3.7	3.3
% Still Unknown	2	8	7