What Is Measured?
Average number of college credits earned from initial enrollment to completion of a certificate or an associate degree

Who Is Counted?
Georgia Community College students, including transfer students, who completed a certificate or an associate degree in 2007-08

What It Tells Us
For students who graduated from Georgia Community Colleges, the average number of credits it took to complete a certificate was 96 for part-time students and 99 for full-time students. The average number of credits to complete an associate degree was 97 for part-time students and 92 for full-time students.

Why It's Important
Typically, an associate degree requires 60 semester credit hours (credits) of college-level coursework or the equivalent, which requires two academic years of full-time enrollment to complete. The course requirements for certificates range widely, from less than 10 credits to more than 60 credits, and many certificate programs are measured in terms of clock or contact hours rather than credits (Bosworth, 2010). Earning credits in excess of the program requirements may represent additional effort and learning above and beyond the bare minimum, but it also means that students and colleges are expending scarce resources on courses that do not count toward a certificate or degree.

DATA SOURCE
