

Community college students need 4 years to graduate

By Jason Song, Los Angeles Times

About half the students enrolled in California's community colleges take more than four years to graduate, double the traditional two-year commitment, a study released Tuesday found.

Of the nearly 64,000 who received a single associate degree in the 2012-13 academic year, the median student took 4.1 years, the nonprofit Campaign for College Opportunity said.

"We're all talking about a college affordability crisis," said Michele Siqueiros, executive director of the group that examined the graduation rates of the 2012-2013 graduates. "And time is part of that crisis."

State community college officials said that nearly 80,000 students received an associate degree in the 2012-13 year, but some may have earned additional certificates or degrees. The study only examined students who earned an associate's degree.

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