

Progress of studies 2015

Qualifications were completed faster

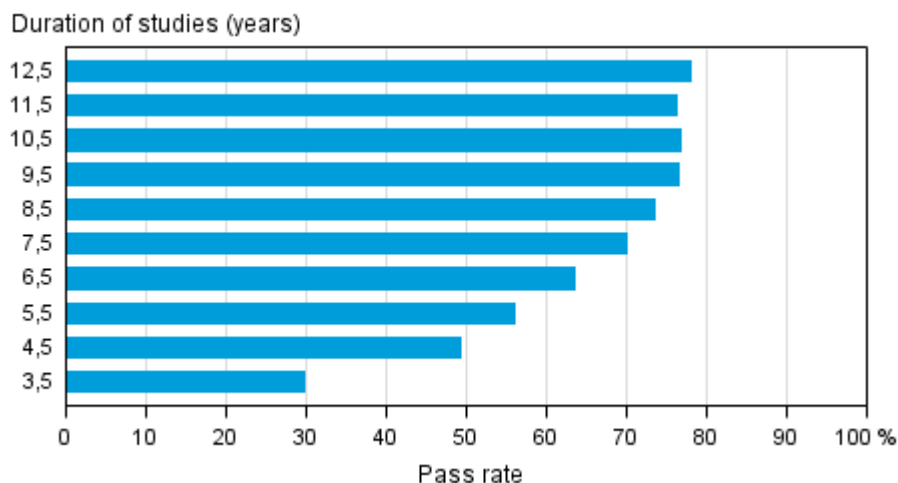
According to Statistics Finland's education statistics, completion of university education accelerated. In all, 56 per cent of the students having started university education completed their studies in five-and-a-half years, 33 per cent completed lower university level degrees and 23 per cent higher university degrees. The pass rates of university of applied sciences and upper secondary vocational education also improved in 2015.

Pass rates by sector of education in 2015 and 2014¹⁾

Sector of education	Duration of studies (years)	Pass rate 2015 (%)	Pass rate 2014 (%)	Difference between pass rates in 2015–2014
Upper secondary general education aimed at young people	3,5	80,5	80,6	-0,1
Vocational education aimed at young people	3,5	67,7	66,3	1,4
University of applied sciences education (youth education)	4,5	47,3	44,5	2,8
University education (lower and higher university degrees)	5,5	56,0	52,5	3,5

1) The pass rate tells how many per cent of those that started the education have completed the qualification within the examined study time.

Pass rates for university education in different reference periods by the end of 2015 (lower and higher university degrees)



The pass rate of education grows, the longer time has passed from the start of education. The older the cohort of new students is examined, the higher the pass rate became. Seventy per cent of students completed a higher or lower university degree in seven-and-a-half years and, as many as 78 per cent of those having studied for 12.5 years have passed a university degree.

Pass rates of lower university degrees for young people in 2015 and 2014 by sex for those having studied for 3.5 to 4.5 years

Sector of education	Duration of studies (years)	Gender	Pass rate 2015 (%)	Pass rate 2014 (%)	Difference between pass rates in 2015–2014
University education (lower university degrees)	3,5	Men	10,9	9,6	1,3
		Women	21,9	20,5	1,4
	4,5	Men	25,7	18,2	7,5
		Women	40,4	32,3	8,1

Only 17 per cent of those who had started studying for a lower university degree completed the lower university degree in the target time of three-and-a-half years. Female students completed a university degree in that time more often than men. Twenty-two per cent of women and 11 per cent of men completed a lower university degree. The difference in the pass rate was 11 percentage points. The pass rate at four-and-a-half years had improved by eight percentage points for both women and men in 2015 compared to the previous year.

Pass rates of higher university degrees for young people in 2015 and 2014 by sex for those having studied for 5.5 to 6.5 years

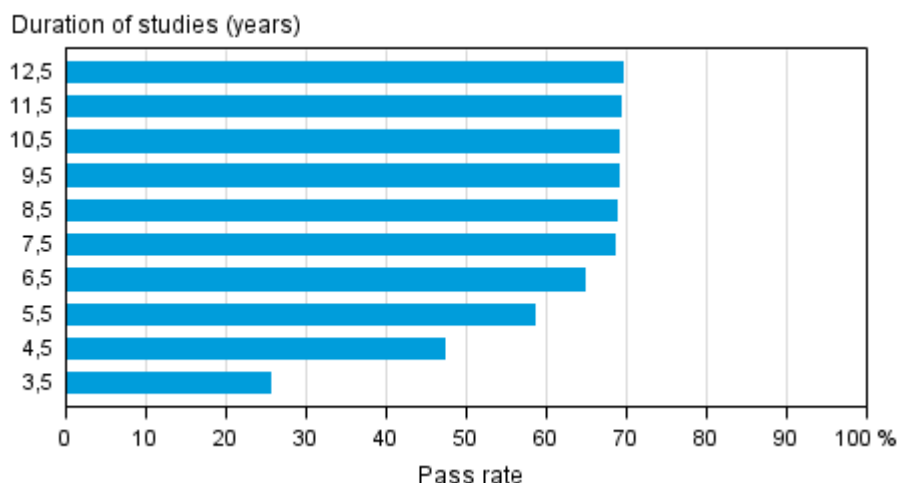
Sector of education	Duration of studies (years)	Gender	Pass rate 2015 (%)	Pass rate 2014 (%)	Difference between pass rates in 2015–2014
University education (higher university degrees)	5,5	Men	18,4	18,0	0,4
		Women	27,3	28,0	-0,7
	6,5	Men	28,6	28,0	0,6
		Women	42,7	40,6	2,1

Nearly one in four completed a higher university degree in the target time of five-and-a-half years. Female students completed a higher university degree in that time more often than men. Twenty-seven per cent

of women and 18 per cent of men completed a higher university degree. The difference in the pass rate was nine percentage points. Among women that started studying for a university degree, 43 per cent completed the degree in six-and-a-half years and 29 per cent of men. The difference in the pass rate was 14 percentage points.

Over 60 per cent of women and close on one-third of men complete university of applied sciences degrees in the target time

Pass rates for university of applied sciences education in different reference periods by the end of 2015



Forty-seven per cent of those who started studying for a university of applied sciences degree completed their studies in four-and-a-half years. Education was completed in at most seven-and-a-half years by 69 per cent and in twelve-and-a-half years by nearly 70 per cent of those studying for a university of applied sciences degree. At its highest, the pass rate for university of applied sciences degrees was 74 per cent for those who started studying more than 13 years earlier.

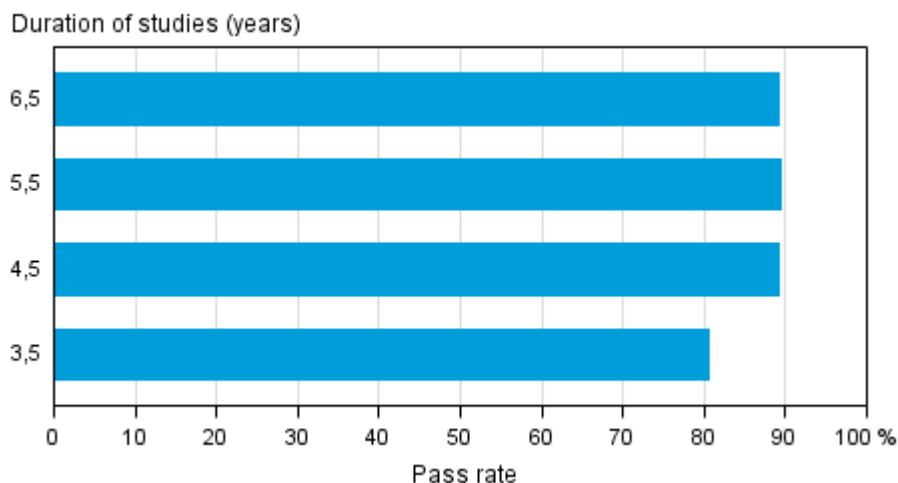
Pass rates of university of applied sciences education for young people in 2015 and 2014 by sex for those having studied for 4.5 to 5.5 years

Sector of education	Duration of studies (years)	Gender	Pass rate 2015 (%)	Pass rate 2014 (%)	Difference between pass rates in 2015–2014
University of applied sciences education (youth education)	4,5	Men	32,6	29,5	3,1
		Women	60,3	57,7	2,6
	5,5	Men	46,7	46,5	0,2
		Women	69,1	68,5	0,6

The difference between genders is even larger in the completion time of university of applied sciences education than in university education. Over 60 per cent of women completed their studies in four-and-a-half years, while close on one-third of men managed the same. The difference in the pass rate was 28 percentage points. Men close the gap a bit when five-and-a-half years of studies have passed. Sixty-nine per cent of women and 47 per cent of men had completed their studies in that time. The difference in the pass rate was 22 percentage points.

Completion of upper secondary general school in four years has increased slightly

Pass rates for upper secondary general education aimed at young people in different reference periods by the end of 2015



According to the data for 2015, upper secondary general education was completed typically in 3.5 to 4.5 years: Eighty-one per cent of new students in upper secondary general schools completed the upper secondary general school syllabus in at most three-and-a-half years and 89 per cent in at most four-and-a-half years. When the duration of studies was more than four-and-a-half years, the number of completers of upper secondary general education in relation to the number of those starting education settled between 89 and 90 per cent.

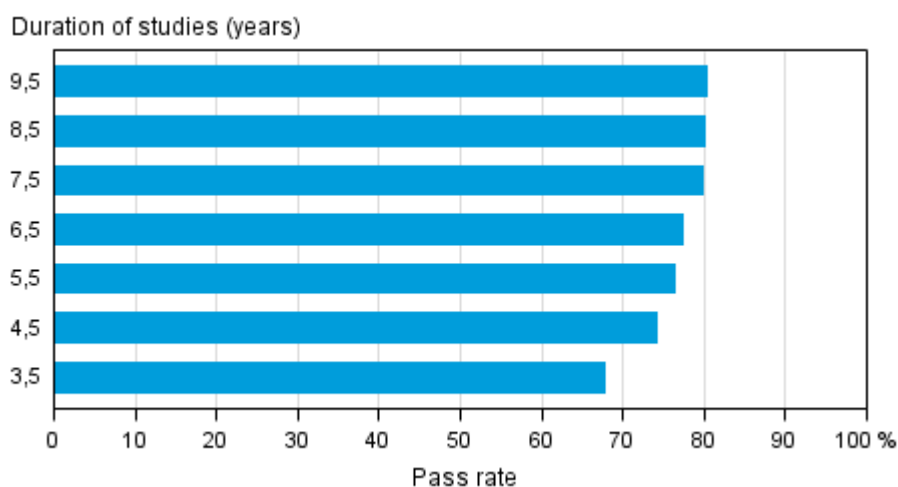
Pass rates of upper secondary general education aimed at young people in 2015 and 2014 by gender for those having studied for 3.5 to 4.5 years

Sector of education	Duration of studies (years)	Gender	Pass rate 2015 (%)	Pass rate 2014 (%)	Difference between pass rates in 2015–2014
Upper secondary general education aimed at young people	3,5	Men	80,1	79,9	0,2
		Women	80,9	81,1	-0,2
	4,5	Men	88,0	87,5	0,5
		Women	90,2	89,6	0,6

Men studying in upper secondary general school passed their qualifications slightly slower than women studying there did. Eighty per cent of men completed their upper secondary general school qualification in three-and-a-half years, while for women, the corresponding figure was 81 per cent. Changes in the pass rate of upper secondary general education were small in 2015 compared to the previous year. The pass percentages of those who completed their education in four-and-a-half years grew by 0.5 percentage points for both men and women.

The pass rate of vocational education improved by 1.4 percentage points

Pass rates for vocational education aimed at young people in different reference periods by the end of 2015



The duration of qualifications completed in vocational education for young people varies more than that of upper secondary general qualifications. Sixty-eight per cent of vocational education students passed their vocational qualifications in three-and-a-half years or faster. Seventy-four per cent of students completed their education in at most four-and-a-half years.

The pass rate for vocational education grew yearly slightly also for those having studied longer: 76 per cent of those having started studies five-and-a-half years earlier and 80 per cent of those having started nine-and-a-half years earlier had completed their qualifications by the end of 2015.

Pass rates of vocational education aimed at young people in 2015 and 2014 by sex for those having studied for 3.5 to 4.5 years

Sector of education	Duration of studies (years)	Gender	Pass rate 2015 (%)	Pass rate 2014 (%)	Difference between pass rates in 2015–2014
Vocational education aimed at young people	3,5	Men	67,4	66,7	0,7
		Women	68,0	66,0	2,0
	4,5	Men	73,9	73,1	0,8
		Women	74,1	73,0	1,1

Men and women completed their vocational education within the target time almost as often. Of women, 68 per cent completed their studies in three-and-a-half years and of men slightly more than 67 per cent. In four-and-a-half years, 74 per cent of both women and men had completed their studies.

When the duration of studies was over five-and-a-half years, women completed the qualifications they had started more often than men did. For women having started studies eight-and-a-half years ago, 81 per cent completed the vocational education by the end of 2015, while the respective figure for men was 79 per cent.

The database tables of these statistics contain information on the differences between the pass rates for different fields of sectors of education (see [database tables](#)). The database tables also include information on those students who did not attain their qualification in the target time.

In these statistics, the number of completers of education relative to starters of education has increased particularly for tertiary level education. Other statistics also indicate that studying was more interesting than in the year before, as both discontinuation of education and employment of students decreased ([Discontinuation of education,Employment of students](#)).

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Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Progress of new upper secondary school students (aimed at young people) studies by end 2015

Year of starting	New upper secondary school students, total	Completers of matriculation examination, 2015		New male students	Male completers of matriculation examination, 2015		New female students	Female completers of matriculation examination, 2015	
			%			%			%
2000	37 709	33 499	88,8	15 883	13 724	86,4	21 826	19 775	90,6
2001	36 957	32 842	88,9	15 580	13 529	86,8	21 377	19 313	90,3
2002	35 695	31 736	88,9	15 307	13 399	87,5	20 388	18 337	89,9
2003	36 714	32 570	88,7	15 764	13 719	87,0	20 950	18 851	90,0
2004	36 020	32 036	88,9	15 497	13 514	87,2	20 523	18 522	90,2
2005	35 065	31 225	89,0	15 243	13 376	87,8	19 822	17 849	90,0
2006	35 007	31 126	88,9	14 872	13 065	87,8	20 135	18 061	89,7
2007	34 510	30 683	88,9	14 436	12 705	88,0	20 074	17 978	89,6
2008	34 793	31 135	89,5	14 770	13 161	89,1	20 023	17 974	89,8
2009	34 064	30 366	89,1	14 509	12 787	88,1	19 555	17 579	89,9
2010	33 705	30 118	89,4	14 472	12 766	88,2	19 233	17 352	90,2
2011	32 897	29 358	89,2	14 194	12 493	88,0	18 703	16 865	90,2
2012	32 183	25 919	80,5	13 758	11 019	80,1	18 425	14 900	80,9

Appendix table 2. Progress of new students studies in vocational education (aimed at young people) by end 2015

Year of starting	New students in vocational education, total	Attainers of vocational qualifications, 2015		New male students	Male attainers of vocational qualifications, 2015		New female students	Female attainers of vocational qualifications, 2015	
			%			%			%
2000	50 552	40 257	79,6	25 941	19 799	76,3	24 611	20 458	83,1
2001	48 330	38 659	80,0	24 938	19 258	77,2	23 392	19 401	82,9
2002	46 815	37 229	79,5	24 216	18 623	76,9	22 599	18 606	82,3
2003	46 000	36 325	79,0	24 084	18 378	76,3	21 916	17 947	81,9
2004	48 482	38 453	79,3	25 174	19 414	77,1	23 308	19 039	81,7
2005	48 041	38 117	79,3	24 792	19 227	77,6	23 249	18 890	81,3
2006	48 705	39 114	80,3	25 399	20 080	79,1	23 306	19 034	81,7
2007	48 247	38 584	80,0	24 925	19 750	79,2	23 322	18 834	80,8
2008	48 336	38 535	79,7	24 965	19 884	79,6	23 371	18 651	79,8
2009	50 671	39 240	77,4	26 131	20 207	77,3	24 540	19 033	77,6
2010	50 533	38 607	76,4	26 047	19 852	76,2	24 486	18 755	76,6
2011	50 499	37 384	74,0	25 772	19 055	73,9	24 727	18 329	74,1
2012	49 759	33 674	67,7	25 873	17 435	67,4	23 886	16 239	68,0

Appendix table 3. Progress of new university of applied sciences students studies by end 2015, youth education

Year of starting	New university of applied sciences students, total	Attainers of university of applied sciences degrees, 2015		New male students	Male attainers of university of applied sciences degrees, 2015		New female students	Female attainers of university of applied sciences degrees, 2015	
			%			%			%
1995	8 361	6 153	73,6	4 139	2 746	66,3	4 222	3 407	80,7
1999	25 888	19 185	74,1	11 555	7 506	65,0	14 333	11 679	81,5
2000	26 091	19 300	74,0	11 595	7 589	65,5	14 496	11 711	80,8
2001	26 223	19 388	73,9	11 546	7 453	64,6	14 677	11 935	81,3
2002	28 526	20 088	70,4	13 412	8 184	61,0	15 114	11 904	78,8
2003	28 776	20 006	69,5	13 347	8 035	60,2	15 429	11 971	77,6
2004	29 332	20 335	69,3	13 190	7 871	59,7	16 142	12 464	77,2
2005	29 053	20 078	69,1	13 141	7 863	59,8	15 912	12 215	76,8
2006	28 531	19 718	69,1	13 045	7 835	60,1	15 486	11 883	76,7
2007	28 329	19 503	68,8	13 037	7 827	60,0	15 292	11 676	76,4
2008	28 302	19 404	68,6	12 711	7 614	59,9	15 591	11 790	75,6
2009	28 400	18 423	64,9	13 127	7 274	55,4	15 273	11 149	73,0
2010	29 030	17 013	58,6	13 558	6 329	46,7	15 472	10 684	69,1
2011	28 646	13 556	47,3	13 447	4 384	32,6	15 199	9 172	60,3
2012	28 093	7 134	25,4	12 719	1 639	12,9	15 374	5 495	35,7

Appendix table 4. Progress of new university students studies by end 2015, lower or higher university degrees

Year of starting	New university students, total	Attainers of lower or higher university degrees, 2015		New male students	Male attainers of lower or higher university degrees, 2015		New female students	Female attainers of lower or higher university degrees, 2015	
			%			%			%
1995	16 582	13 711	82,7	7 526	5 719	76,0	9 056	7 992	88,3
1999	19 054	15 352	80,6	8 501	6 179	72,7	10 553	9 173	86,9
2000	19 783	15 689	79,3	8 590	6 043	70,3	11 193	9 646	86,2
2001	21 018	16 601	79,0	9 201	6 501	70,7	11 817	10 100	85,5
2002	21 245	16 556	77,9	9 456	6 553	69,3	11 789	10 003	84,9
2003	20 763	16 184	77,9	9 092	6 330	69,6	11 671	9 854	84,4
2004	20 827	15 903	76,4	8 977	6 120	68,2	11 850	9 783	82,6
2005	20 744	15 932	76,8	8 979	6 162	68,6	11 765	9 770	83,0
2006	19 988	15 271	76,4	8 687	6 046	69,6	11 301	9 225	81,6
2007	19 461	14 325	73,6	8 274	5 383	65,1	11 187	8 942	79,9
2008	19 396	13 587	70,1	8 483	5 246	61,8	10 913	8 341	76,4
2009	19 940	12 651	63,4	8 820	4 788	54,3	11 120	7 863	70,7
2010	19 766	11 069	56,0	8 780	4 153	47,3	10 986	6 916	63,0
2011	19 827	9 743	49,1	8 786	3 355	38,2	11 041	6 388	57,9
2012	22 815	6 817	29,9	9 944	2 255	22,7	12 871	4 562	35,4

Appendix table 5. Progress of new university students studies by end 2015, lower university degree

Year of starting	New university students, total	Attainers of lower university degree, 2015		New male students	Male attainers of lower university degree, 2015		New female students	Female attainers of lower university degree, 2015	
			%			%			%
2010	19 766	6 452	32,6	8 780	2 534	28,9	10 986	3 918	35,7
2011	19 827	6 715	33,9	8 786	2 254	25,7	11 041	4 461	40,4
2012	22 815	3 909	17,1	9 944	1 087	10,9	12 871	2 822	21,9

Appendix table 6. Progress of new university students studies by end 2015, higher university degree

Year of starting	New university students, total	Attainers of higher university degree, 2015		New male students	Male attainers of higher university degree, 2015		New female students	Female attainers of higher university degree, 2015	
			%			%			%
1995	16 582	11 453	69,1	7 526	5 063	67,3	9 056	6 390	70,6
1999	19 054	12 905	67,7	8 501	5 429	63,9	10 553	7 476	70,8
2000	19 783	12 984	65,6	8 590	5 204	60,6	11 193	7 780	69,5
2001	21 018	13 212	62,9	9 201	5 341	58,0	11 817	7 871	66,6
2002	21 245	12 666	59,6	9 456	5 054	53,4	11 789	7 612	64,6
2003	20 763	11 378	54,8	9 092	4 483	49,3	11 671	6 895	59,1
2004	20 827	10 512	50,5	8 977	4 006	44,6	11 850	6 506	54,9
2005	20 744	11 080	53,4	8 979	4 222	47,0	11 765	6 858	58,3
2006	19 988	11 607	58,1	8 687	4 544	52,3	11 301	7 063	62,5
2007	19 461	10 299	52,9	8 274	3 801	45,9	11 187	6 498	58,1
2008	19 396	9 081	46,8	8 483	3 373	39,8	10 913	5 708	52,3
2009	19 940	7 275	36,5	8 820	2 522	28,6	11 120	4 753	42,7
2010	19 766	4 617	23,4	8 780	1 619	18,4	10 986	2 998	27,3
2011	19 827	3 028	15,3	8 786	1 101	12,5	11 041	1 927	17,5
2012	22 815	2 908	12,7	9 944	1 168	11,7	12 871	1 740	13,5

Inquiries

Anna Loukkola 029 551 3678
Director in charge:
Jari Tarkoma

www.stat.fi
Source: Education Statistics, Statistics Finland