

Progress of studies 2012

Polytechnic education was completed faster

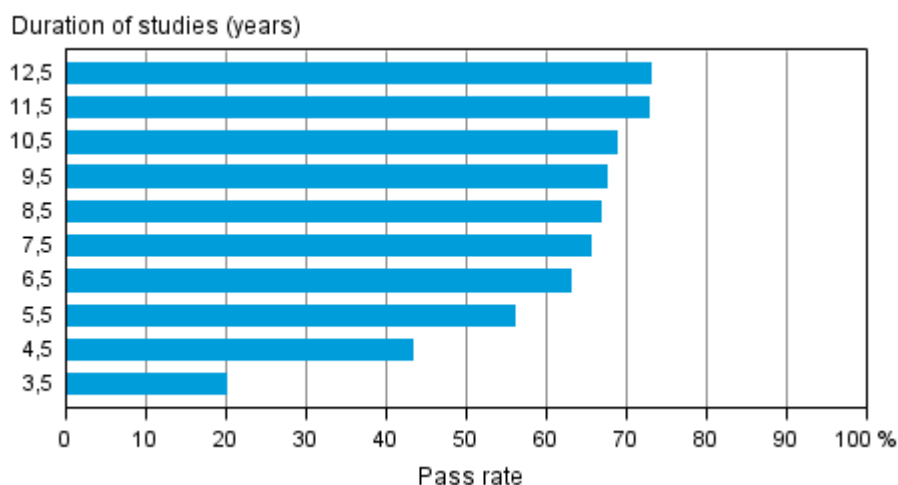
Corrected on 24 March 2014. The correction is indicated in red. Was previously 17 per cent.

According to Statistics Finland's Education Statistics for the year 2012, 80 per cent of upper secondary general school students completed a qualification in at most three-and-a-half years. Sixty-four per cent of students attending vocational education aimed at young people passed their qualifications within the same time. Forty-three per cent of students attending polytechnic education aimed at young people completed education in four-and-a-half years. A lower or higher university degree in university education was completed by 49 per cent of students in five-and-a-half years.

Pass rates by sector of education in 2012 and 2011

Sector of education	Duration of studies (years)	Pass rate 2012 (%)	Pass rate 2011 (%)	Difference between pass rates in 2012–2011
Upper secondary general education aimed at young people	3,5	79,5	80,3	-0,8
Vocational education aimed at young people	3,5	64,3	64,9	-0,6
Polytechnic education (youth education)	4,5	43,3	40,6	2,7
University education (lower and higher university degrees)	5,5	49,4	48,9	0,5

Pass rates for polytechnic education in different reference periods by the end of 2012



The share of passers of the polytechnic degree in those having started polytechnic education aimed at young people, that is, the pass rate of education, grows the longer time has passed from the start of education. Forty-three per cent of students completed their education in four-and-a-half years or faster. Education was completed in at most seven-and-a-half years by 65 per cent and in twelve-and-a-half years by 73 per cent of polytechnic students.

Pass rates of polytechnic education for young people in 2012 and 2011 by sex for those having studied for 4.5 to 5.5 years

Sector of education	Duration of studies (years)	Gender	Pass rate 2012 (%)	Pass rate 2011 (%)	Difference between pass rates in 2012–2011
Polytechnic education (youth education)	4,5	Men	28,0	24,8	3,2
		Women	55,8	54,1	1,7
	5,5	Men	43,1	41,3	1,8
		Women	67,0	67,1	- 0,1

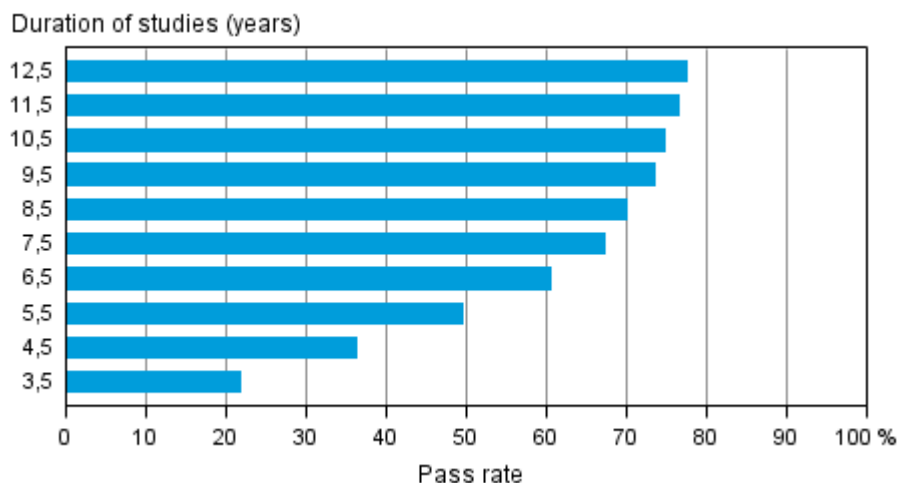
Female students in polytechnic education completed their polytechnic degrees more often than men did. Twenty-eight per cent of men and 56 per cent of women passed their polytechnic degree in at most four-and-a-half years, and the difference between the pass rates was 28 percentage points. Fifty-five per cent of men and 74 per cent of women completed education in seven-and-a-half years, that is, the difference between the pass rates was 19 percentage points.

Compared to the situation in 2011, polytechnic degrees were completed in 2012 more often in four-and-a-half years or in five-and-a-half years. The share of those completing their qualification in four-and-a-half years grew for men by three percentage points and for women by nearly two percentage points.

One-half of new students in university education completed their degrees in at most five-and-a-half years

Forty-nine per cent of university students completed a higher or lower university degree in at most five-and-a-half years. The older the cohort of new students is examined, the higher the pass rate became: 67 per cent of students completed a higher or lower university degree in at most seven-and-a-half years and as many as 78 per cent of those having studied for 12.5 years had passed a higher or lower university degree.

Pass rates for university education in different reference periods by the end of 2012 (lower and higher university degrees)



As in polytechnic education, there were large differences between sexes in completing university education. Thirty-seven per cent of male students and 59 per cent of female students had completed a higher or lower university degree in five-and-a-half years. The difference between men's and women's pass rates was 22 percentage points.

A higher or lower university degree had been completed in at most seven-and-a-half years by 57 per cent of male students and by 75 per cent of female students, and the difference between the pass rates was thus 18 percentage points. Sixty-eight per cent of male students had completed a higher or lower degree in 12.5 years. For women, the corresponding proportion was 85 per cent, while the difference between the pass rates of sexes was 17 percentage points.

Pass rates of university education for young people in 2012 and 2011 by sex for those having studied for 5.5 to 6.5 years (lower and higher university degrees)

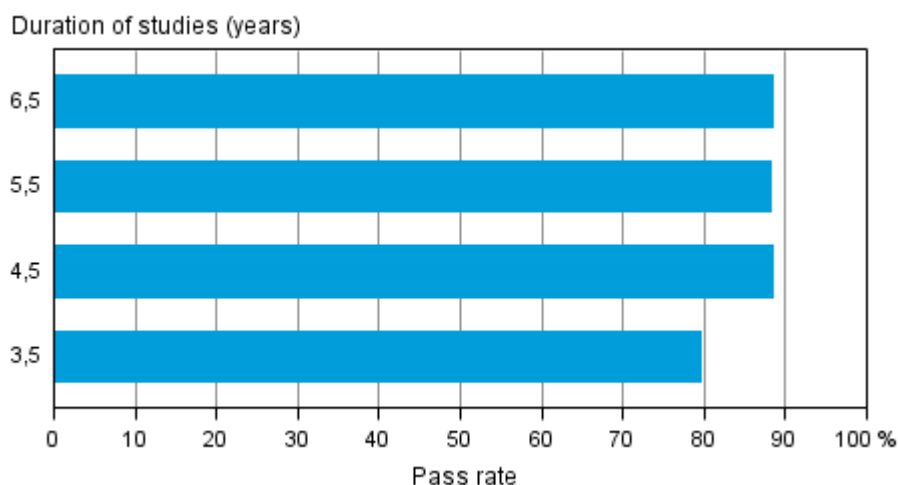
Sector of education	Duration of studies (years)	Gender	Pass rate 2012 (%)	Pass rate 2011 (%)	Difference between pass rates in 2012–2011
University education (lower and higher university degrees)	5,5	Men	36,9	37,3	- 0,4
		Women	58,6	57,8	0,8
	6,5	Men	49,6	47,2	2,4
		Women	68,8	68,5	0,3

Changes in the pass rates for university education were small between the data for 2011 and for 2012. Only the pass percentage for male students having completed education in at most six-and-a-half years changed by over one percentage point, having grown by around two percentage points.

Upper secondary general school was completed in four instead of three years more often than before

According to the data for 2012, upper secondary general education was completed typically in 3.5 to 4.5 years: Eighty 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 88 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 88 and 89 per cent.

Pass rates for upper secondary general education aimed at young people in different reference periods by the end of 2012



Men studying in upper secondary general school passed their qualifications slower than women studying there did. Seventy-nine per cent of men completed their upper secondary general school qualification in three-and-a-half years, while for women, the corresponding figure was 80 per cent.

Pass rates of upper secondary general education aimed at young people in 2012 and 2011 by gender for those having studied for 3.5 to 4.5 years

Sector of education	Duration of studies (years)	Gender	Pass rate 2012 (%)	Pass rate 2011 (%)	Difference between pass rates in 2012–2011
Upper secondary general education aimed at young people	3,5	Men	78,7	80,5	- 1,8
		Women	80,1	80,2	- 0,1
	4,5	Men	88,0	86,5	1,5
		Women	88,8	88,3	0,5

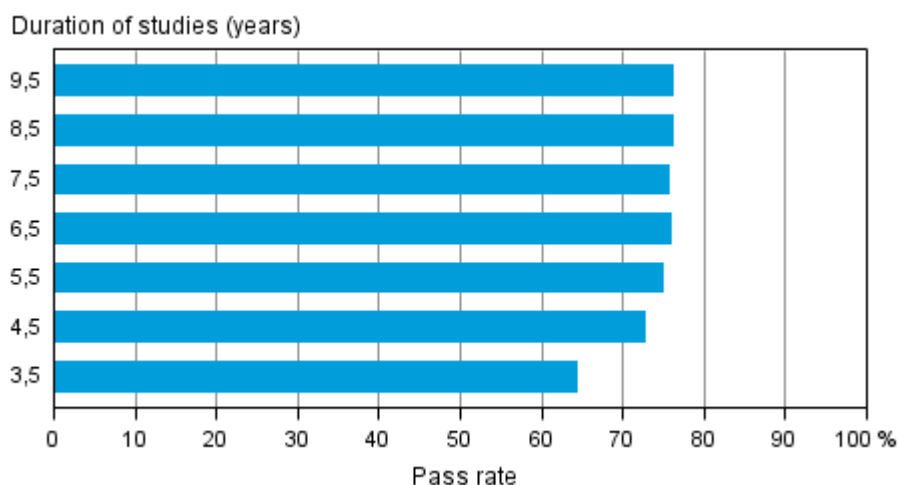
According to the statistics for 2012, men particularly completed upper secondary general school more often than before in at most four-and-a-half years. The number of men completing upper secondary general education in three-and-a-half years fell by around two percentage points from the situation of 2011 to that at the end of 2012. At the same time, the number of male students having completed upper secondary general school in at most four-and-a-half years grew by nearly as much, by around two percentage points. The change for women was similar, but smaller.

Men completed vocational qualifications more often than women in three-and-a-half or four-and-a-half years

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

The pass rate for vocational education grew yearly slightly even for those having studied the longest time: 75 per cent of those having started studies five-and-a-half years earlier and 76 per cent of those having started nine-and-a-half year earlier had completed their qualifications by the end of 2012.

Pass rates for vocational education aimed at young people in different reference periods by the end of 2012



The completion time for vocational education varied between men and women. Sixty-five per cent of male students passed a vocational qualification in three-and-a-half years and 73 per cent in four-and-a-half years. Of female students, 64 per cent completed a vocational qualification in three-and-a-half years and 72 per cent in four-and-a-half years, which is slightly less than the corresponding figures for men.

Seventy-five per cent of vocational education students had completed education in five-and-a-half years, and there were not differences between men's and women's pass rates.

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 example, 77 per cent of women completed vocational education in at most six-and-a-half years, while the corresponding figure for men was 75 per cent. The difference is slightly bigger for the cohort having started studies nine-and-a-half years ago: 79 per cent of women having started studying nine-and-a-half years earlier completed vocational education by the end of 2012, while the respective figure for men was 74 per cent.

Pass rates of vocational education aimed at young people in 2012 and 2011 by sex for those having studied for 3.5 to 4.5 years

Sector of education	Duration of studies (years)	Gender	Pass rate 2012 (%)	Pass rate 2011 (%)	Difference between pass rates in 2012–2011
Vocational education aimed at young people	3,5	Men	65,0	66,0	- 1,0
		Women	63,5	63,7	- 0,2
	4,5	Men	73,4	72,1	1,3
		Women	72,0	71,7	0,3

As in upper secondary general education, men also completed a qualification in vocational education more often than before in four-and-a-half years instead of three-and-a-half years.

The database tables of these statistics contain information on the differences between the pass rates for different fields of sectors of education (see [Tables in databases](#)). 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 table 1. Progress of new upper secondary school students (aimed at young people) studies by end 2012

Year of starting	New upper secondary school students, total	Completers of matriculation examination		New male students	Male completers of matriculation examination		New female students	Female completers of matriculation examination	
			%			%			%
2000	37 709	33 475	88,8	15 883	13 714	86,3	21 826	19 761	90,5
2001	36 957	32 812	88,8	15 580	13 515	86,7	21 377	19 297	90,3
2002	35 695	31 694	88,8	15 307	13 384	87,4	20 388	18 310	89,8
2003	36 714	32 526	88,6	15 764	13 702	86,9	20 950	18 824	89,9
2004	36 020	31 966	88,7	15 497	13 475	87,0	20 523	18 491	90,1
2005	35 065	31 127	88,8	15 243	13 327	87,4	19 822	17 800	89,8
2006	35 007	30 971	88,5	14 872	12 989	87,3	20 135	17 982	89,3
2007	34 510	30 457	88,3	14 436	12 603	87,3	20 074	17 854	88,9
2008	34 793	30 770	88,4	14 770	12 991	88,0	20 023	17 779	88,8
2009	34 064	27 070	79,5	14 509	11 413	78,7	19 555	15 657	80,1

Appendix table 2. Progress of new students studies in vocational education (aimed at young people) by end 2012

Year of starting	New students in vocational education, total	Attainers of vocational qualifications		New male students	Male attainers of vocational qualifications		New female students	Female attainers of vocational qualifications	
			%			%			%
2000	50 552	39 276	77,7	25 941	19 377	74,7	24 611	19 899	80,9
2001	48 330	37 602	77,8	24 938	18 790	75,3	23 392	18 812	80,4
2002	46 815	36 060	77,0	24 216	18 093	74,7	22 599	17 967	79,5
2003	46 000	34 980	76,0	24 084	17 778	73,8	21 916	17 202	78,5
2004	48 482	36 908	76,1	25 174	18 711	74,3	23 308	18 197	78,1
2005	48 041	36 343	75,6	24 792	18 459	74,5	23 249	17 884	76,9
2006	48 705	36 925	75,8	25 399	19 091	75,2	23 306	17 834	76,5
2007	48 247	36 134	74,9	24 925	18 658	74,9	23 322	17 476	74,9
2008	48 336	35 165	72,8	24 965	18 335	73,4	23 371	16 830	72,0
2009	50 671	32 564	64,3	26 131	16 986	65,0	24 540	15 578	63,5

Appendix table 3. Progress of new polytechnic students studies by end 2012, youth education

Year of starting	New polytechnic students, total	Attainers of polytechnic degrees		New male students	Male attainers of polytechnic degrees		New female students	Female attainers of polytechnic degrees	
			%			%			%
1995	8 361	6 108	73,1	4 139	2 727	65,9	4 222	3 381	80,1
1999	25 888	18 978	73,3	11 555	7 386	63,9	14 333	11 592	80,9
2000	26 091	19 039	73,0	11 595	7 460	64,3	14 496	11 579	79,9
2001	26 223	19 044	72,6	11 546	7 280	63,1	14 677	11 764	80,2
2002	28 526	19 584	68,7	13 412	7 910	59,0	15 114	11 674	77,2
2003	28 776	19 413	67,5	13 347	7 703	57,7	15 429	11 710	75,9
2004	29 332	19 601	66,8	13 190	7 478	56,7	16 142	12 123	75,1
2005	29 053	19 012	65,4	13 141	7 259	55,2	15 912	11 753	73,9
2006	28 531	17 991	63,1	13 045	6 788	52,0	15 486	11 203	72,3
2007	28 329	15 863	56,0	13 037	5 614	43,1	15 292	10 249	67,0
2008	28 302	12 253	43,3	12 711	3 557	28,0	15 591	8 696	55,8
2009	28 400	5 661	19,9	13 127	1 187	9,0	15 273	4 474	29,3

Appendix table 4. Progress of new university students studies by end 2012, lower or higher university degrees

Year of starting	New university students, total	Attainers of lower or higher university degrees		New male students	Male attainers of lower or higher university degrees		New female students	Female attainers of lower or higher university degrees	
			%			%			%
1995	16 582	13 599	82,0	7 526	5 672	75,4	9 056	7 927	87,5
1999	19 054	15 054	79,0	8 501	6 016	70,8	10 553	9 038	85,6
2000	19 783	15 322	77,5	8 590	5 843	68,0	11 193	9 479	84,7
2001	21 018	16 093	76,6	9 201	6 222	67,6	11 817	9 871	83,5
2002	21 245	15 873	74,7	9 456	6 170	65,2	11 789	9 703	82,3
2003	20 763	15 239	73,4	9 092	5 830	64,1	11 671	9 409	80,6
2004	20 827	14 593	70,1	8 977	5 451	60,7	11 850	9 142	77,1
2005	20 744	13 963	67,3	8 979	5 117	57,0	11 765	8 846	75,2
2006	19 988	12 084	60,5	8 687	4 307	49,6	11 301	7 777	68,8
2007	19 461	9 617	49,4	8 274	3 057	36,9	11 187	6 560	58,6
2008	19 396	7 052	36,4	8 483	2 129	25,1	10 913	4 923	45,1
2009	19 940	4 354	21,8	8 820	1 251	14,2	11 120	3 103	27,9

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Source: Education Statistics, Statistics Finland