

Methodology and Summary Data
Postsecondary Outcomes for Non-First-Time Students
(A joint project of InsideTrack, ACE, NASPA, UPCEA and the Clearinghouse)

Summary Results

- Non-first-time (NFT) data represent six- to eight-year outcomes for a cohort of non-first-time students who re-enrolled between August 15, 2005 and August 14, 2008 (N= 4,581,124).
- First-time (FT) data represents six-year outcomes for a cohort of first-time students who started in fall 2006 (N=1,878,484). See: <http://nscresearchcenter.org/signaturereport4/#more-1147>

Completion Rates: Non-First-Time vs First-Time

	NFT	FT	% Diff	NFT COUNT
ALL	33.7%	54.1%	38%	4,581,124

Completion Rates: Non-First-Time vs First-Time by Institution Type

	NFT	FT	% Diff	NFT COUNT
4-year Public	44.1%	60%	27%	1,011,547
4-year Private, Non-Profit	52.5%	71.50%	27%	393,373
4-year, For-Profit	37.1%	42.70%	13%	297,932
2-year Public	26.9%	36.30%	26%	2,833,604
2-year Private, Non-Profit	47.5%	54.20%	12%	8,695
2-year, For-Profit	40.2%	61.70%	35%	35,973

Completion Rates: Non-First-Time vs First-Time by Enrollment Intensity

	NFT	FT	% Diff	NFT COUNT
Exclusively Full-time	48.5%	76%	36%	806,218
Exclusively Part-time	17.7%	21%	14%	1,911,442
Mixed Enrollment	44.5%	40.9%	-9%	1,801,949

Completion Rates: Non-First-Time by State

Abbr	State	6-8 yr completion	NFT Count
AK	Alaska	22.7%	17,175
AL	Alabama	38.6%	49,931
AR	Arkansas	33.5%	32,272
AZ	Arizona	38.6%	64,658
CA	California	24.0%	864,210
CO	Colorado	32.7%	79,861
CT	Connecticut	35.7%	34,313
DC	District of Columbia	57.0%	5,327
DE	Delaware	50.5%	3,532
FL	Florida	40.8%	188,195
GA	Georgia	41.6%	93,806
HI	Hawaii	42.6%	10,359
IA	Iowa	38.4%	54,750
ID	Idaho	43.9%	22,171
IL	Illinois	29.1%	242,716
IN	Indiana	38.2%	87,506
KS	Kansas	31.9%	49,598
KY	Kentucky	30.6%	80,559
LA	Louisiana	34.4%	39,286
MA	Massachusetts	41.7%	77,827
MD	Maryland	33.2%	75,980
ME	Maine	35.0%	13,408
MI	Michigan	34.5%	119,620
MN	Minnesota	44.9%	76,664
MO	Missouri	41.2%	88,267
MS	Mississippi	37.0%	32,431
MT	Montana	36.7%	10,853
NC	North Carolina	36.1%	127,483
ND	North Dakota	41.9%	8,694
NE	Nebraska	29.4%	39,989
NH	New Hampshire	43.0%	11,517
NJ	New Jersey	31.6%	68,077
NM	New Mexico	28.6%	32,224
NV	Nevada	21.1%	41,260
NY	New York	39.1%	195,503
OH	Ohio	31.7%	142,409
OK	Oklahoma	37.4%	39,441
OR	Oregon	24.6%	94,889
PA	Pennsylvania	40.2%	102,969
RI	Rhode Island	35.6%	19,655
SC	South Carolina	34.3%	52,499
SD	South Dakota	38.8%	7,445
TN	Tennessee	36.7%	59,097
TX	Texas	37.8%	295,104
UT	Utah	45.3%	76,792
VA	Virginia	35.1%	111,092
VT	Vermont	39.2%	7,523
WA	Washington	29.2%	128,651
WI	Wisconsin	35.7%	88,606
WV	West Virginia	34.2%	19,058
WY	Wyoming	24.7%	10,165
MU	Multi-state	38.8%	282,735

Cohort Selection

The study cohort includes 4,581,124 students who fulfilled all of the following conditions:

- Enrolled in college sometime between August 15, 2005 and August 14, 2008
- Had prior postsecondary enrollment but no Associates or Bachelors' degree (if they earned only a prior certificate, they were included in the cohort)
- Stopped out of college for at least a year before their re-enrollment

Outcomes

Student outcomes were tracked through completion of a degree or certificate (in the case of multiple credentials earned, we chose the highest) or August 14, 2014, whichever occurred first. Students who first earned an Associate's degree or certificate followed by a Bachelor's degree or higher were reported as "Completed Bachelor's or higher." Students reported as 'Still Enrolled' earned no credential during the study period but had at least one enrollment during the last year of the study, August 15, 2013 - August 14, 2014. If a student was not enrolled during this period and earned no credential, then they were reported as 'No Longer Enrolled.'

Definitions

Sector of Institution of Re-Entry:

For each student, we identified their enrollment at the first institution of re-entry and reported its sector. There are six sectors presented: 4-year public, 4-year private non-profit, 4-year private for-profit, 2-year public, 2-year private non-profit and 2-year private for-profit.

Enrollment Intensity:

Students were classified as exclusively full-time, exclusively part-time or mixed enrollment. This classification was based on the enrollment records from after re-enrollment through August 14, 2014 OR completion of a degree/certificate, whichever occurred first. All non-summer terms that were at least 21 days were included. Terms that started and ended between May 1st and August 31st of a given year were considered summer terms and were excluded from the calculation of the enrollment intensity.

For students with **no concurrent enrollment** after re-enrollment, they were classified as follows:

If all of their enrollment statuses were full-time, they were considered 'Exclusively full-time'.

If all of their enrollment statuses were part-time, they were considered 'Exclusively part-time'.

Otherwise, they were considered 'Mixed enrollment'.

For students **with concurrent enrollment** (If a student attended two institutions and had enrollments which overlapped by 30 days or more, that student had concurrent enrollment), we needed to consider their enrollment behavior at multiple institutions simultaneously. Their classification was based on the 2 highest enrollment statuses within each term.

If, within a term, they had a full-time status OR two half-time statuses, they were considered full-time for that term.

Otherwise, they were considered part-time.

If a student was full-time for every term, they were considered 'Exclusively full-time'.

If a student was part-time for every term, they were considered 'Exclusively part-time'.

Otherwise, they were considered 'Mixed enrollment'.

Age:

Based upon their age at the time of re-entry, students were placed into 3 age groups: '20 and under', '21-24', and 'over 24'. The '20 and under' class includes students who re-entered a college or university by their 20th birthday. Those who re-entered after their 20th birthday but before their 24th birthday were placed in the second category, '21-24'. The remaining students were included in the 'Over 24' group.

Gender:

When a student's gender was reported to the Clearinghouse by their first institution of re-entry, that gender was used. The genders of the remaining students were imputed using a table of name-gender pairs that the Research Center developed using data publicly available from the Census Bureau and the Social Security Administration as well as the institution-reported data. The imputation used only those pairs in which the name had at least two instances and was associated with a single gender in at least 95 percent of the instances. The imputation is accurate in 99.6 percent of the cases with known gender. A detailed document describing this approach resides on the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center's ["Working with Our Data" Web page](#).

Region:

Each student was counted in a particular geographic region based on the state of the first institution where they re-enrolled after their stop-out period. The 50 United States and Washington DC were classified into 'Northeast', 'Midwest', 'South', and 'West' regions. If the student's institution of re-entry was classified as multi-state, then this student was excluded from the 'Region' table. Therefore, many of the larger for-profit institutions are not accounted for in these numbers.

State:

As with Region, students were placed based on the state of first institution they attended after their stop-out period. Students who re-enrolled at multi-state institutions have been grouped together and are presented in the last row of the table.