

Section 8

Persistence and Attainment of a Certificate

Table 8.1—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students who were ever working toward a certificate according to persistence and attainment of a certificate as of spring 1994, by institution where they began working toward the degree and type of degree attained

	Attained certificate	Still enrolled toward certificate	No certificate, no longer enrolled	Changed degree working toward ¹
Total ²	55.8	4.5	31.0	8.7
Level and control of institution where began working toward degree				
4-year				
Public	32.7	12.2	36.0	19.0
Private, not-for-profit	31.5	12.0	40.9	15.6
Private, for-profit	—	—	—	—
2-year				
Public	34.3	10.2	42.7	12.7
Private, not-for-profit	67.9	0	22.0	10.1
Private, for-profit	51.5	3.0	31.4	14.2
Less-than-2-year				
Public	66.5	0	30.3	3.2
Private, not-for-profit	58.3	3.9	26.7	11.0
Private, for-profit	68.5	0.2	25.6	5.8
Level of institution where began working toward degree				
4-year	32.3	12.1	37.7	17.8
2-year	38.2	8.7	40.3	12.9
Less-than-2-year	67.7	0.2	26.7	5.4
Control of institution where began working toward degree				
Public	40.5	8.4	39.9	11.3
Private, not-for-profit	51.1	5.8	30.6	12.5
Private, for-profit	65.4	0.7	26.7	7.3

—Too few cases for a reliable estimate.

¹Student enrolled in a different degree program before the spring of 1994.

²Total includes cases where level and control of institution where began working toward the degree is unknown.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study—Second Follow-up (BPS:90/94), Data Analysis System.

Table 8.2—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students who were ever working toward a certificate according to persistence and attainment of a certificate as of spring 1994, by demographic characteristics

	Attained certificate	Still enrolled toward certificate	No certificate, no longer enrolled	Changed degree working toward ¹
Total ²	55.8	4.5	31.0	8.7
Gender				
Male	53.1	5.5	32.3	9.1
Female	57.7	3.8	30.1	8.4
Age when began working toward degree				
18 years or younger	45.2	4.9	35.9	14.0
19 years	54.2	2.3	29.8	13.8
20–29 years	52.4	6.7	31.5	9.3
30 years or older	56.8	2.0	40.8	0.3
Socioeconomic status				
Lowest quartile	51.7	0.5	44.3	3.5
Middle quartiles	56.1	6.6	28.1	9.3
Highest quartile	60.1	4.4	21.6	13.9
Race-ethnicity of student				
American Indian/Alaskan Native	—	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	72.1	0	16.4	11.6
Black, non-Hispanic	46.4	2.1	39.2	12.3
Hispanic	61.7	7.4	22.9	8.0
White, non-Hispanic	55.9	4.8	31.2	8.1
Marital status when began working toward degree				
Not married	52.3	5.0	31.5	11.2
Married	53.0	2.3	38.5	6.2
Separated	39.8	0	60.2	0
Parental education				
Less than high school diploma	56.5	0.6	39.6	3.2
High school diploma	57.0	4.3	29.4	9.3
Some postsecondary	53.0	5.3	31.4	10.4
Bachelor's or higher	55.5	9.7	21.8	13.0
Dependency status in 1989–90				
Dependent	56.4	5.3	26.5	11.7
Independent	55.0	3.6	36.3	5.2
Income and dependency status in 1989–90				
Dependent				
Less than \$20,000	52.0	6.1	35.2	6.7
\$20,000–39,999	57.9	3.8	27.5	10.8
\$40,000–59,999	62.8	4.2	17.0	15.9
\$60,000 or more	51.7	9.4	20.3	18.6
Independent				
Less than \$10,000	57.7	3.7	33.2	5.4
\$10,000–19,999	52.1	4.5	37.3	6.1
\$20,000 or more	52.9	2.5	40.9	3.7

—Too few cases for a reliable estimate.

¹Student enrolled in a different degree program before the spring of 1994.

²Total includes cases where level and control of the institution where began working toward the degree is unknown.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study—Second Follow-up (BPS:90/94), Data Analysis System.

Table 8.3—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students who were ever working toward a certificate according to persistence and attainment of a certificate as of spring 1994, by persistence risk factors when they began working toward the degree

	Attained certificate	Still enrolled toward certificate	No certificate, no longer enrolled	Changed degree working toward ¹
Total ²	55.8	4.5	31.0	8.7
Number of risk factors when began working toward degree ³				
None	58.7	5.2	24.7	11.4
One	52.2	8.7	25.4	13.9
Two	55.5	7.1	25.7	11.6
Three or more	47.4	2.3	44.2	6.1
High school diploma or equivalency status				
High school diploma	57.0	5.2	28.4	9.4
GED or high school equivalent ⁴	48.2	0	47.6	4.2
Delayed postsecondary enrollment				
Did not delay	56.6	7.9	22.7	12.8
Delayed	55.1	1.7	37.9	5.3
Attendance status when began working toward degree				
Full time	52.9	3.8	32.3	10.9
Part time	43.7	1.9	43.9	10.4
Dependency status when began working toward degree				
Independent	51.0	5.3	36.2	7.4
Dependent	54.6	3.8	28.0	13.6
Number of children when began working toward degree				
None	51.0	6.7	30.0	12.3
One or more	50.4	1.8	43.1	4.7
Single parent status when began working toward degree				
Not a single parent	51.7	5.0	32.4	10.9
Single parent	49.3	0.7	44.2	5.8
Worked full time while enrolled when began working toward degree				
Did not work full time	58.4	3.6	29.7	8.4
Worked full time	39.8	6.4	41.1	12.7

¹Student enrolled in a different degree program before the spring of 1994.

²Total includes cases where level and control of the institution where began working toward the degree is unknown.

³Risk factors included delayed enrollment, being a GED recipient, being financially independent, having children, being a single parent, part time attendance, and working full time while enrolled.

⁴Passed tests of General Educational Development or high school equivalent, also includes a small number of cases with no high school diploma.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 1990 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study—Second Follow-up (BPS:90/94), Data Analysis System.