

Section 6

Persistence and Attainment of a Bachelor's Degree

Table 6.1—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students who were ever working toward a bachelor's degree according to persistence and attainment of a bachelor's degree as of spring 1994, by institution where they began working toward the degree and type of degree attained

	Attained bachelor's degree	Still enrolled toward bachelor's degree	No bachelor's degree, no longer enrolled	Changed degree working toward ¹
Total ²	44.5	21.2	24.8	9.6
Level and control of institution where began working toward degree				
4-year				
Public	47.7	23.5	22.1	6.8
Private, not-for-profit	67.7	9.8	17.4	5.1
Private, for-profit	—	—	—	—
2-year				
Public	9.1	30.1	40.0	20.8
Private, not-for-profit	11.2	23.9	44.2	20.6
Private, for-profit	0.0	11.4	54.8	33.8
Less-than-2-year				
Public	—	—	—	—
Private, not-for-profit	—	—	—	—
Private, for-profit	—	—	—	—
Level of institution where began working toward degree				
4-year	53.9	19.3	20.6	6.2
2-year	8.8	29.4	40.6	21.2
Less-than-2-year	—	—	—	—
Control of institution where began working toward degree				
Public	36.3	25.4	27.4	11.0
Private, not-for-profit	66.5	10.1	18.0	5.4
Private, for-profit	1.7	18.6	52.0	27.6

—Too few cases for a reliable estimate.

¹Student enrolled in a different degree or certificate 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 6.2—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students who were ever working toward a bachelor's degree according to persistence and attainment of a bachelor's degree as of spring 1994, by demographic characteristics

	Attained bachelor's degree	Still enrolled toward bachelor's degree	No bachelor's degree, no longer enrolled	Changed degree working toward ¹
Total ²	44.5	21.2	24.8	9.6
Gender				
Male	39.8	24.4	27.0	8.9
Female	49.1	18.0	22.6	10.3
Age when began working toward degree				
18 years or younger	51.2	17.4	22.1	9.2
19 years	30.3	26.6	32.9	10.2
20–29 years	25.9	35.4	28.4	10.3
30 years or older	13.3	16.7	53.4	16.6
Socioeconomic status				
Lowest quartile	23.6	21.7	39.5	15.2
Middle quartiles	38.2	24.7	27.4	9.8
Highest quartile	51.3	18.6	21.2	8.8
Race–ethnicity of student				
American Indian/Alaskan Native	—	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	46.1	23.8	23.4	6.8
Black, non-Hispanic	35.2	24.0	32.5	8.4
Hispanic	33.3	25.6	22.8	18.3
White, non-Hispanic	46.4	20.0	24.5	9.1
Marital status when began working toward degree				
Not married	46.2	20.7	23.7	9.4
Married	18.4	28.3	43.0	10.3
Separated	—	—	—	—
Parental education				
Less than high school diploma	32.4	14.4	34.9	18.3
High school diploma	37.3	20.6	31.4	10.7
Some postsecondary	44.3	22.1	25.3	8.3
Bachelor's or higher	50.6	21.7	19.3	8.4
Dependency status in 1989–90				
Dependent	47.0	20.8	23.2	9.0
Independent	20.6	25.0	39.0	15.3
Income and dependency status in 1989–90				
Dependent				
Less than \$20,000	37.2	22.1	31.1	9.6
\$20,000–39,999	42.7	24.3	24.3	8.8
\$40,000–59,999	47.8	17.7	25.0	9.5
\$60,000 or more	58.0	19.0	14.7	8.2
Independent				
Less than \$10,000	22.6	24.8	34.4	18.1
\$10,000–19,999	20.9	32.2	26.8	20.1
\$20,000 or more	16.5	19.8	57.6	6.2

—Too few cases for a reliable estimate.

¹Student enrolled in a different degree or certificate 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 6.3—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students who were ever working toward a bachelor's degree according to persistence and attainment of a bachelor's degree as of spring 1994, by persistence risk factors when they began working toward the degree

	Attained bachelor's degree	Still enrolled toward bachelor's degree	No bachelor's degree, no longer enrolled	Changed degree working toward ¹
Total ²	44.5	21.2	24.8	9.6
Number of risk factors when began working toward degree ³				
None	53.6	19.7	19.4	7.3
One	42.2	23.5	25.2	9.1
Two	20.9	22.9	43.5	12.7
Three or more	12.7	24.1	40.4	22.8
High school diploma or equivalency status				
High school diploma	45.1	21.2	24.4	9.3
GED or high school equivalent ⁴	17.2	18.6	41.5	22.8
Delayed postsecondary enrollment				
Did not delay	49.1	20.4	22.1	8.4
Delayed	17.0	25.7	40.5	16.8
Attendance status when began working toward degree				
Full time	51.5	18.0	21.6	8.8
Part time	12.2	20.7	43.6	23.5
Dependency status when began working toward degree				
Dependent	51.5	18.9	21.5	8.1
Independent	21.5	28.0	34.9	15.5
Number of children when began working toward degree				
None	45.4	21.1	24.0	9.4
One or more	16.3	24.3	39.5	20.0
Single parent status when began working toward degree				
Not a single parent	45.7	21.1	24.1	9.2
Single parent	21.0	16.7	32.5	29.8
Worked full time while enrolled when began working toward degree				
Did not work full time	45.7	22.0	23.3	8.9
Worked full time	39.4	18.2	31.5	10.9

¹Student enrolled in a different degree or certificate 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.