

## Section 7

### Persistence and Attainment of an Associate's Degree

Table 7.1—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students who were ever working toward an associate's degree according to persistence and attainment of an associate's degree as of spring 1994, by institution where they began working toward the degree and type of degree attained

	Attained associate's degree	Still enrolled toward associate's degree	No associate's degree, no longer enrolled	Changed degree working toward <sup>1</sup>
Total <sup>2</sup>	35.5	8.7	38.7	17.2
Level and control of institution where began working toward degree				
4-year				
Public	23.6	15.2	45.3	15.9
Private, not-for-profit	32.9	10.9	36.9	19.3
Private, for-profit	—	—	—	—
2-year				
Public	28.4	9.9	42.4	19.4
Private, not-for-profit	42.8	6.1	21.7	29.5
Private, for-profit	37.9	1.9	49.3	10.9
Less-than-2-year				
Public	—	—	—	—
Private, not-for-profit	—	—	—	—
Private, for-profit	—	—	—	—
Level of institution where began working toward degree				
4-year	27.0	13.9	42.3	16.8
2-year	29.6	9.1	42.1	19.1
Less-than-2-year	—	—	—	—
Control of institution where began working toward degree				
Public	28.0	10.3	42.7	19.1
Private, not-for-profit	37.7	8.4	29.8	24.1
Private, for-profit	34.7	2.4	51.6	11.3

—Too few cases for a reliable estimate.

<sup>1</sup>Student enrolled in a different degree or certificate program before the spring of 1994.

<sup>2</sup>Total 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 7.2—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students who were ever working toward an associate's degree according to persistence and attainment of an associate's degree as of spring 1994, by demographic characteristics

	Attained associate's degree	Still enrolled toward associate's degree	No associate's degree, no longer enrolled	Changed degree working toward <sup>1</sup>
Total <sup>2</sup>	35.5	8.7	38.7	17.2
Gender				
Male	33.4	7.0	38.1	21.5
Female	37.1	10.0	39.1	13.8
Age when began working toward degree				
18 years or younger	41.4	6.7	31.0	20.9
19 years	25.5	4.8	47.4	22.3
20–29 years	20.1	14.2	49.3	16.5
30 years or older	17.2	14.4	57.4	11.0
Socioeconomic status				
Lowest quartile	23.7	11.3	52.7	12.3
Middle quartiles	31.1	10.3	40.9	17.8
Highest quartile	47.3	5.2	29.0	18.5
Race–ethnicity of student				
American Indian/Alaskan Native	—	—	—	—
Asian/Pacific Islander	41.4	13.2	29.0	16.4
Black, non-Hispanic	25.8	11.0	44.1	19.1
Hispanic	34.7	11.7	37.6	16.0
White, non-Hispanic	36.6	7.8	38.4	17.1
Marital status when began working toward degree				
Not married	33.1	8.7	37.5	20.7
Married	19.0	13.7	57.4	9.9
Separated	—	—	—	—
Parental education				
Less than high school diploma	19.6	14.8	51.2	14.4
High school diploma	32.5	7.0	44.4	16.0
Some postsecondary	39.1	12.5	36.7	11.7
Bachelor's or higher	45.9	6.6	23.6	23.9
Dependency status in 1989–90				
Dependent	42.1	7.4	32.2	18.3
Independent	19.2	11.9	54.2	14.6
Income and dependency status in 1989–90				
Dependent				
Less than \$20,000	39.3	9.2	32.8	18.8
\$20,000–39,999	37.9	6.0	35.3	20.8
\$40,000–59,999	46.3	6.7	32.4	14.7
\$60,000 or more	49.0	8.7	24.7	17.6
Independent				
Less than \$10,000	23.4	10.4	53.6	12.6
\$10,000–19,999	17.2	10.0	60.3	12.5
\$20,000 or more	15.9	15.3	50.0	18.9

—Too few cases for a reliable estimate.

<sup>1</sup>Student enrolled in a different degree or certificate program before the spring of 1994.

<sup>2</sup>Total 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 7.3—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students who were ever working toward an associate's degree according to persistence and attainment of an associate's degree as of spring 1994, by persistence risk factors when they began working toward the degree

	Attained associate's degree	Still enrolled toward associate's degree	No associate's degree, no longer enrolled	Changed degree working toward <sup>1</sup>
Total <sup>2</sup>	35.5	8.7	38.7	17.2
Number of risk factors when began working toward degree <sup>3</sup>				
None	47.8	8.1	24.8	19.4
One	32.7	6.8	37.9	22.5
Two	22.0	7.9	51.5	18.5
Three or more	14.2	13.4	57.1	15.3
High school diploma or equivalency status				
High school diploma	37.1	9.0	37.0	16.8
GED or high school equivalent <sup>4</sup>	14.8	4.8	59.0	21.4
Delayed postsecondary enrollment				
Did not delay	45.6	7.7	28.5	18.2
Delayed	19.1	10.3	54.9	15.6
Attendance status when began working toward degree				
Full time	38.5	6.2	34.6	20.7
Part time	18.4	12.6	52.3	16.7
Dependency status when began working toward degree				
Dependent	40.7	7.1	31.3	20.8
Independent	18.9	12.0	52.1	17.0
Number of children when began working toward degree				
None	32.5	9.1	38.5	19.9
One or more	17.0	12.5	57.3	13.2
Single parent status when began working toward degree				
Not a single parent	31.4	9.4	40.0	19.2
Single parent	12.8	9.5	62.8	14.9
Worked full time while enrolled when began working toward degree				
Did not work full time	35.7	7.0	37.3	19.9
Worked full time	19.0	13.9	50.4	16.8

<sup>1</sup>Student enrolled in a different degree or certificate program before the spring of 1994.

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

<sup>3</sup>Risk 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.

<sup>4</sup>Passed 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.