

Section 12

Persistence and Attainment During Last Spell
of Continuous Enrollment . Total

Table 12.1—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students according to persistence and attainment during the last spell of continuous enrollment, by institution attended, intensity of enrollment, degree working toward, and type of degree attained

	Attained degree at end of spell	Still enrolled in spring 1994	Left without return ¹ at end of spell
Total	37.7	19.0	43.3
Intensity of enrollment during last spell			
Exclusively part time	11.2	17.9	70.8
Mixed	45.3	28.6	26.2
Exclusively full time	46.2	18.6	35.2
Level and control of last institution			
4-year			
Public, 4-year	42.7	29.6	27.7
Private, not-for-profit	61.6	16.4	22.0
Private, for-profit	—	—	—
2-year			
Public	19.3	16.9	63.9
Private, not-for-profit	50.8	12.3	36.9
Private, for-profit	43.9	3.3	52.8
Less-than-2-year			
Public	49.1	0.6	50.3
Private, not-for-profit	47.7	3.8	48.5
Private, for-profit	52.2	1.6	46.3
Level of last institution			
4-year	47.7	26.0	26.3
2-year	22.1	15.6	62.2
Less-than-2-year	51.4	1.4	47.2
Control of last institution			
Public	31.0	22.3	46.6
Private, not-for-profit	60.6	15.9	23.5
Private, for-profit	48.7	2.6	48.8
Degree working toward when began last spell			
None	5.2	7.9	87.0
Certificate	43.4	8.1	48.5
Associate's degree	27.1	13.9	59.0
Bachelor's degree	46.9	26.3	26.8
First type of degree attained			
None	†	26.5	73.5
Certificate	68.8	8.7	22.4
Associate's degree	60.4	23.1	16.4
Bachelor's degree	87.8	6.4	5.8
Highest degree attained			
None	†	26.5	73.5
Certificate	69.6	8.7	21.8
Associate's degree	58.3	23.9	17.8
Bachelor's degree	85.9	7.4	6.7

—Too few cases for a reliable estimate.

†Not applicable.

¹Without return as of spring 1994.

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 12.2—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students according to persistence and attainment during the last spell of continuous enrollment, by demographic characteristics

	Attained degree at end of spell	Still enrolled in spring 1994	Left without return ¹ at end of spell
Total	37.7	19.0	43.3
Gender			
Male	34.5	20.9	44.6
Female	40.5	17.3	42.2
Age when began last spell			
18 years or younger	62.3	7.3	30.4
19 years	42.2	10.2	47.6
20–29 years	24.7	30.2	45.1
30 years or older	23.8	8.8	67.4
Socioeconomic status			
Lowest quartile	30.3	10.9	58.9
Middle quartiles	33.7	20.0	46.3
Highest quartile	45.1	20.8	34.2
Race-ethnicity of student			
American Indian/Alaskan Native	31.9	37.9	30.2
Asian/Pacific Islander	43.0	28.2	28.8
Black, non-Hispanic	30.7	17.7	51.6
Hispanic	32.5	23.8	43.6
White, non-Hispanic	38.9	18.0	43.1
Marital status when began last spell			
Not married	41.3	18.9	39.8
Married	24.5	15.8	59.7
Separated	39.1	0.8	60.1
Parental education			
Less than high school diploma	33.6	10.6	55.8
High school diploma	35.0	15.7	49.2
Some postsecondary	37.6	20.1	42.3
Bachelor's or higher	43.3	25.5	31.3
Dependency status in 1989–90			
Dependent	41.6	21.0	37.4
Independent	26.5	13.2	60.4
Income and dependency status in 1989–90			
Dependent			
Less than \$20,000	36.9	19.7	43.5
\$20,000–39,999	37.9	22.0	40.1
\$40,000–59,999	44.0	19.7	36.3
\$60,000 or more	48.9	22.5	28.6
Independent			
Less than \$10,000	30.4	14.6	55.0
\$10,000–19,999	28.3	12.5	59.3
\$20,000 or more	19.8	11.9	68.4

¹Without return as of spring 1994.

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 12.3—Percentage distribution of 1989–90 beginning postsecondary students according to persistence and attainment during the last spell of continuous enrollment, by persistence risk factors when they began last spell

	Attained degree at end of spell	Still enrolled in spring 1994	Left without return ¹ at end of spell
Total	37.7	19.0	43.3
Number of risk factors when began last spell ²			
None	56.5	18.8	24.8
One	38.7	23.6	37.6
Two	25.5	21.4	53.2
Three or more	21.4	14.2	64.4
High school diploma or equivalency status			
High school diploma	38.3	19.9	41.8
GED or high school equivalent ³	28.6	6.2	65.2
Delayed postsecondary enrollment			
Did not delay	43.7	21.8	34.5
Delayed	25.3	13.1	61.5
Attendance status when began last spell			
Full time	57.5	11.5	31.0
Part time	17.8	16.0	66.2
Dependency status when began last spell			
Dependent	52.2	16.8	31.0
Independent	24.2	21.0	54.8
Number of children when began last spell			
None	40.8	20.2	39.0
One or more	26.7	12.4	61.0
Single parent status when began last spell			
Not a single parent	40.1	18.7	41.2
Single parent	26.4	13.4	60.2
Worked full time while enrolled when began last spell			
Did not work full time	46.1	18.9	35.0
Worked full time	25.4	16.7	57.9

¹Without return as of spring 1994.

²Risk 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.

³Passed 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.