

# Persistence, Retention, and Attainment of 2011–12 First-Time Beginning Postsecondary Students as of Spring 2017

First Look



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**FEBRUARY 2019**

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# Introduction

This First Look report presents selected findings from the 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17), a nationally representative survey of undergraduates who entered postsecondary education for the first time in the 2011–12 academic year. BPS:12/17 covers the experiences of these first-time beginning postsecondary students over 6 academic years, 2011–12 through 2016–17, and provides information about students’ demographic backgrounds; enrollment characteristics; transfer experiences; persistence in and completion of postsecondary education programs; transition into employment; and changes over time in their education and career goals, income level, and debt amount, among other indicators. This report provides a first look at students’ persistence, retention, and attainment over 6 years,<sup>1</sup> showing the rates at which students had completed postsecondary credentials, the rates at which they had persisted through or left postsecondary education without earning any credential as of spring 2017, and the rates at which they remained in the first institution in which they were enrolled. Both overall rates and rates disaggregated by key enrollment and student characteristics are shown in the tables.

The purpose of this report is to illustrate the range of information available in BPS:12/17. The selected findings present examples of the estimates that can be obtained from the data and are not intended to emphasize any particular issue. Readers are cautioned not to make causal inferences about the data presented here. Many of the variables examined are related to one another, and complex interactions and relationships have not been explored.

Appendix A describes the variables used in this report. Appendix B provides detailed information on BPS:12/17, including data sources, sample design, and quality of estimates. Appendix C contains standard errors for all population estimates in this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Persistence refers to continued enrollment at *any* institution, whereas retention refers to continued enrollment at *one* institution (e.g., first institution).

## BPS:12/17 Data Collection

The first-time beginning postsecondary students in BPS:12/17 were identified in the 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12), which included a nationally representative sample of about 95,000 undergraduate and 16,000 graduate students attending about 1,500 Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia (Wine, Bryan, and Siegel 2014).<sup>2</sup> Approximately 37,000 respondents in NPSAS:12 were confirmed as first-time beginning postsecondary students in the 2011–12 academic year and became the study sample for BPS:12/17. The NPSAS:12 undergraduate sample represents the approximately 23 million<sup>3</sup> undergraduates enrolled in 2011–12, and the base-year sample included in BPS:12/17 represents the approximately 4 million undergraduates who were first-time beginning postsecondary students enrolled in the 2011–12 academic year.

First-time beginning postsecondary students in BPS:12/17 participated in three interviews: in 2012, at the end of their first year in postsecondary education; in 2014, about 3 years after they started postsecondary education; and in 2017, approximately 6 years after they started postsecondary education.

The 2012 interview covered a variety of topics, including students' enrollment characteristics during the first year, their education aspirations, and their demographic and academic backgrounds. The 2014 interview focused on students' enrollment patterns since 2012, including any transfers to other institutions, stopout periods,<sup>4</sup> attendance intensity, and certificates and degrees earned. A brief employment history was also collected. Those still enrolled were asked more detailed information about their academic and social experiences in postsecondary education, and those who had left postsecondary education, either with or without a degree or certificate, were asked more detailed employment information. The 2017 interview focused on the degree completion of those still enrolled after 2014 and the employment of those no longer enrolled.

BPS:12/17 draws on many sources of data (see appendix B, table B-1 for a list of sources). Information about first-time beginning postsecondary students during their first year comes from NPSAS:12, which included a student interview and obtained data from institutional records, federal financial aid applications, and federal student

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<sup>2</sup> In contrast to other NPSAS administrations, institutions in Puerto Rico were not included in the NPSAS:12 sample.

<sup>3</sup> This number reflects unduplicated enrollment counts of students enrolled in undergraduate education. Students may enroll in multiple institutions during the academic year; NPSAS:12 used a multiplicity adjustment to estimate the unduplicated counts of undergraduate students.

<sup>4</sup> A stopout is defined as a break in enrollment of 5 or more consecutive months.

loan and Pell Grant records. Data on 2011–12 first-time beginning postsecondary students in 2014 and 2017 are based primarily on the follow-up student interviews conducted in those years. The follow-up data are supplemented by information from students' enrollment records from the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) and from federal databases such as the Central Processing System (CPS), the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS), and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). In addition, the 2014 follow-up collected information from college admissions test agencies (the College Board and ACT). In all three study years (2012, 2014, and 2017), student interviews were distributed as web-based questionnaires that were self-administered or administered by a trained interviewer. In 2017, about 22,530 students completed the interview, resulting in a weighted interview response rate of 64 percent (Bryan, Cooney, and Elliott forthcoming).

Publications and information about accessing datasets for BPS studies are available on the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) websites:

<https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/getpubcats.asp?sid=014> and

<https://nces.ed.gov/datalab>. Information on how to access the BPS:12/17

restricted-use data file is available at <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/licenses.asp>.

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## Selected Findings

### ***Attainment and persistence at any institution within 6 years (2012–17)***

- Among 2011–12 first-time beginning postsecondary students, 9 percent had completed a certificate, 11 percent had completed an associate’s degree, and 37 percent had completed a bachelor’s degree at any institution within 6 years (table 1). Another 12 percent had not earned a credential and were currently enrolled at some institution (6 percent at a 4-year institution and 6 percent at a less-than-4-year institution), while an additional 32 percent had not earned a credential and were not enrolled at any institution as of spring 2017.
- Among 2011–12 first-time beginning postsecondary students who first enrolled in a public 2-year institution, 8 percent had completed a certificate, 18 percent had completed an associate’s degree, and 13 percent had completed a bachelor’s degree at any institution within 6 years (table 2). Another 15 percent had not earned a credential but were enrolled somewhere (5 percent at a 4-year institution and 10 percent at a less-than-4-year institution), and 46 percent had not earned a credential and were not enrolled at any institution as of spring 2017.
- Among 2011–12 first-time beginning postsecondary students who first enrolled in a 4-year institution, 59 percent had completed a bachelor’s degree, 6 percent had completed an associate’s degree, and 2 percent had completed a certificate at any institution within 6 years (table 3). An additional 11 percent had not earned a credential but were enrolled somewhere (8 percent at a 4-year institution and 3 percent at a less-than-4-year institution), and 22 percent had not earned a credential and were not enrolled at any institution as of spring 2017.

### ***Attainment and retention at first institution within 6 years (2012–17)***

- Within 6 years, 6 percent of 2011–12 first-time beginning postsecondary students had completed a certificate, 11 percent had completed an associate’s degree, and 27 percent had completed a bachelor’s degree at the first institution they attended (table 4). A total of 56 percent of students had not completed a credential at their first institution; as of spring 2017, they were still enrolled at their first institution (6 percent), had left their first institution but transferred to another institution (25 percent),<sup>5</sup> or had left their first institution and had not enrolled elsewhere (25 percent).

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<sup>5</sup> Students who transferred to another institution may still be enrolled, have completed a credential at the institution they transferred to, or have transferred to another institution without completing a credential as of spring 2017.

- Among 2011–12 first-time beginning postsecondary students who first enrolled in a public 2-year institution, 5 percent had received a certificate and 22 percent had received an associate’s degree at their first institution within 6 years (table 5). A total of 73 percent of students had not completed a credential at their first institution; as of spring 2017, they were still enrolled at their first institution (7 percent), had left their first institution but transferred to another institution (27 percent), or had left their first institution and had not enrolled elsewhere (39 percent).
- Among 2011–12 first-time beginning postsecondary students who first enrolled in a 4-year institution, 51 percent had received a bachelor’s degree, 4 percent had received an associate’s degree, and about 1 percent had received a certificate at their first institution within 6 years (table 6). A total of 44 percent of students had not completed a credential at their first institution; as of spring 2017, they were still enrolled at their first institution (5 percent), had left their first institution but transferred to another institution (24 percent), or had left their first institution and had not enrolled elsewhere (15 percent).

## Tables

**Table 1. ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS:**  
**Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students' 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence**  
**status at any institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>31.7</b>
Control and level of first institution						
4-year	2.3	6.0	59.1	8.3	2.6	21.7
Public	2.4	5.8	59.4	9.3	2.8	20.3
Private nonprofit	1.3	2.9	73.6	5.4	2.1	14.7
Private for-profit	5.0	16.1	14.1	11.4	3.3	50.2
2-year	12.2	17.9	11.4	4.4	9.5	44.6
Public	8.4	18.1	12.7	4.8	9.8	46.3
Private nonprofit	20.4 !	21.0 !	10.6 !	‡	7.8 !	38.4
Private for-profit	44.4	16.0	‡	1.4	6.8	30.7
Less-than-2-year	56.6	‡	‡	1.2 !	8.0 !	31.2
Public	55.9	‡	‡	‡	‡	32.5
Private nonprofit	68.1	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Private for-profit	56.2	‡	‡	‡	8.6	31.1
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	6.3 !	8.7 !	22.2	8.7 !	10.2 !	43.9
Certificate	53.3	2.9	0.7 !	1.5	7.7	33.9
Associate's degree	5.8	21.3	12.4	6.2	8.6	45.7
Bachelor's degree	1.9	3.3	66.1	7.5	2.7	18.5
Attendance intensity through 2017 <sup>1</sup>						
Always full time	8.9	6.8	51.5	2.7	1.2	28.8
Mixed	8.6	13.4	35.5	8.5	7.3	26.7
Always part time	6.6	5.4	‡	3.0	8.5	76.0
Number of stopouts at all institutions through 2017 <sup>2</sup>						
None	4.8	10.1	51.4	3.1	1.2	29.5
One	13.4	13.5	17.2	10.0	10.2	35.6
Two	16.6	9.3	4.8	15.6	18.0	35.6
Three or more	17.7	7.0 !	‡	15.2	28.1	28.8
Sex						
Male	6.5	11.1	34.4	7.3	5.4	35.3
Female	10.0	10.7	38.6	5.7	6.0	29.0
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	5.6	9.9	47.8	6.7	5.3	24.7
19 years	7.1	10.3	40.9	6.7	5.7	29.4
20–23 years	16.4	12.4	9.7	6.7	9.5	45.4
24–29 years	15.5	13.5	5.3	4.9	4.5	56.3
30 years or older	17.9	15.7	7.2	3.6	5.3	50.3
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>						
White	6.6	11.0	43.4	5.8	4.4	29.0
Black	9.5	9.5	22.7	6.8	8.4	43.2
Hispanic	14.4	12.1	23.6	7.1	8.5	34.3
Asian	3.9	8.7	55.3	9.2	4.5	18.5
American Indian or Alaska Native	23.5 !	9.9 !	14.1	8.8 !	‡	37.4
Pacific Islander	‡	‡	25.8	‡	‡	41.0
Two or more races	7.1	11.4	37.8	6.6	3.9	33.2

See notes at end of table.

**Table 1. ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS: Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students' 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence status at any institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12 <sup>4</sup>						
Dependent	6.4	10.2	44.4	6.7	5.4	26.9
Independent	16.0	13.3	9.2	5.3	7.0	49.3
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	12.8	13.9	14.3	5.9	6.6	46.5
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	17.1	11.2	5.3	5.5	8.0	52.9
Married, no dependent(s)	17.5	15.0	8.3	4.8 !	8.2 !	46.1
Married, with dependent(s)	19.1	15.3	7.8	3.9	5.2	48.8
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12 <sup>5</sup>						
High school diploma or less	12.5	12.2	19.0	6.4	7.4	42.5
Some postsecondary education	9.4	13.6	29.1	6.0	6.2	35.7
Bachelor's or higher degree	4.0	7.8	58.7	6.7	3.6	19.2
High school grade point average (GPA) <sup>6</sup>						
Below 2.00	11.9	11.7	8.5	5.7	10.2	52.0
2.00–2.49	12.7	13.7	17.4	7.7	7.9	40.6
2.50–2.99	9.2	11.9	28.5	7.9	6.4	36.1
3.00–3.49	7.1	11.2	42.1	7.2	5.3	27.2
3.50–4.00	4.0	6.6	60.2	4.6	3.8	20.9
Highest level of education expected, 2012 <sup>7</sup>						
Certificate or no degree	56.2	2.8 !	‡	0.9 !	6.4	32.7
Associate's degree	14.4	20.2	2.7	3.2	7.7	51.8
Bachelor's degree	6.4	13.0	31.4	7.5	6.3	35.4
Master's or higher degree	4.2	7.8	52.4	6.8	4.8	24.0

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error is between 30 and 50 percent of the estimate.

‡ Reporting standards not met either because the standard error is greater than 50 percent of the estimate or there are too few cases for a reliable estimate.

<sup>1</sup> Full-time status for the purposes of financial aid eligibility is based on 12 credit hours per term or 24 credit hours per academic year, unless the awarding institution employed a different standard.

<sup>2</sup> A stopout is defined as a break in enrollment of 5 or more consecutive months.

<sup>3</sup> Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Two or more races includes students having origins in more than one race. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic origin unless specified.

<sup>4</sup> Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Unmarried includes students who were separated, widowed, or divorced. Students are considered to have a dependent if they have a child or any others for whom they are the caretaker or have financial responsibility. A spouse is not considered to be a dependent.

<sup>5</sup> The 4 percent of all first-time students who did not have parents' education information are included in the total but not shown separately. "Some postsecondary education" means that at least one parent attended postsecondary education and may have earned a credential up to an associate's degree, but neither parent earned a bachelor's or advanced degree.

<sup>6</sup> Information on high school GPA was not collected for students who were age 30 or older by the end of 2011 (7 percent).

<sup>7</sup> "Master's or higher degree" includes postbaccalaureate and post-master's certificates.

NOTE: Estimates pertain to individuals who were first-time postsecondary students in 2011–12 at Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table 2. ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A PUBLIC 2-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence status at any institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>46.3</b>
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	6.8 !	10.4 !	22.2	‡	10.8 !	44.4
Certificate	39.7	3.4 !	1.7 !	1.5 !	7.5 !	46.1
Associate's degree	6.3	19.4	13.1	5.0	9.9	46.3
Plan to continue to a bachelor's degree program within 5 years, 2011–12 <sup>1</sup>						
Yes	5.8	18.7	15.7	5.4	10.9	43.5
No	8.2	20.6	5.0	3.4	6.7	56.2
Attendance intensity through 2017 <sup>2</sup>						
Always full time	6.9	14.2	17.8	2.6	1.0	57.5
Mixed	9.3	22.7	15.4	6.5	11.6	34.5
Always part time	6.3	5.2	‡	‡	10.1	78.0
Number of stopouts at all institutions through 2017 <sup>3</sup>						
None	5.4	20.1	18.7	2.7	2.7	50.4
One	11.0	18.2	7.4	6.6	15.7	41.2
Two	13.0	10.8	0.8 !	8.6	22.7	44.0
Three or more	20.7	‡	‡	12.2 !	36.7	27.5
Sex						
Male	7.3	17.8	10.9	5.0	9.2	49.8
Female	9.3	18.3	14.3	4.6	10.3	43.2
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	6.8	19.8	17.2	4.9	10.6	40.7
19 years	9.0	18.5	13.1	6.4	9.3	43.8
20–23 years	10.5	14.3	5.9	4.6	12.2	52.4
24–29 years	8.2	14.5	5.5	2.1 !	5.9 !	63.8
30 years or older	11.1	16.9	6.0	2.2 !	7.5	56.2
Race/ethnicity <sup>4</sup>						
White	7.6	19.4	15.1	4.1	7.8	45.8
Black	8.9	12.8	6.7	5.2	12.5	53.9
Hispanic	9.8	16.9	8.6	5.3	13.1	46.4
Asian	7.8 !	20.0	21.7	7.9 !	10.2 !	32.4
American Indian or Alaska Native	14.0 !	14.5 !	‡	‡	‡	30.7 !
Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Two or more races	7.3 !	23.0	15.0	4.3 !	7.2 !	43.2

See notes at end of table.

**Table 2. ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A PUBLIC 2-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence status at any institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12 <sup>5</sup>						
Dependent	8.0	19.3	15.1	5.4	10.0	42.2
Independent	9.4	14.7	6.5	3.1	9.4	56.8
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	8.8	17.6	9.0	3.7 !	9.3	51.6
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	9.1	11.0	3.8 !	2.9	10.1	63.1
Married, no dependent(s)	11.5	17.8	‡	‡	11.1 !	55.2
Married, with dependent(s)	9.8	13.8	8.1 !	2.8 !	8.0 !	57.5
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12 <sup>6</sup>						
High school diploma or less	8.8	16.7	8.3	3.3	10.1	52.7
Some postsecondary education	8.7	19.1	11.6	4.8	9.5	46.2
Bachelor's or higher degree	6.6	19.2	22.1	7.0	8.7	36.3
High school grade point average (GPA) <sup>7</sup>						
Below 2.00	7.3	14.0	5.6	4.8 !	13.5	54.8
2.00–2.49	10.9	17.3	8.7	5.1	10.4	47.5
2.50–2.99	7.9	17.9	11.1	6.3	8.9	47.9
3.00–3.49	7.3	19.7	16.5	4.9	9.9	41.7
3.50–4.00	6.4	18.4	19.0	4.4	9.2	42.6
Highest level of education expected, 2012 <sup>8</sup>						
Certificate or no degree	37.5	6.5 !	‡	0.7 !	3.0 !	48.0
Associate's degree	10.3	19.1	3.1	1.6	9.4	56.5
Bachelor's degree	6.9	19.3	11.8	5.8	10.4	45.8
Master's or higher degree	6.5	16.9	20.0	5.7	9.9	40.9

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error is between 30 and 50 percent of the estimate.

‡ Reporting standards not met either because the standard error is greater than 50 percent of the estimate or there are too few cases for a reliable estimate.

<sup>1</sup> Information on bachelor's degree plans was not collected for beginning public 2-year students who started in a certificate program (6 percent).

<sup>2</sup> Full-time status for the purposes of financial aid eligibility is based on 12 credit hours per term or 24 credit hours per academic year, unless the awarding institution employed a different standard.

<sup>3</sup> A stopout is defined as a break in enrollment of 5 or more consecutive months.

<sup>4</sup> Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Two or more races includes students having origins in more than one race. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic origin unless specified.

<sup>5</sup> Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Unmarried includes students who were separated, widowed, or divorced. Students are considered to have a dependent if they have a child or any others for whom they are the caretaker or have financial responsibility. A spouse is not considered to be a dependent.

<sup>6</sup> The 5 percent of beginning public 2-year students who did not have parents' education information are included in the total but not shown separately. "Some postsecondary education" means that at least one parent attended postsecondary education and may have earned a credential up to an associate's degree, but neither parent earned a bachelor's or advanced degree.

<sup>7</sup> Information on high school GPA was not collected for students who were age 30 or older by the end of 2011 (9 percent of students beginning at a public 2-year institution).

<sup>8</sup> "Master's or higher degree" includes postbaccalaureate and post-master's certificates.

NOTE: Estimates pertain to individuals who were first-time postsecondary students in 2011–12 at Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table 3. ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A 4-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence status at any institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Control and doctorate-granting status of first institution						
Public non-doctorate-granting	3.1	10.7	38.1	13.2	2.4	32.6
Public doctorate-granting	2.0	3.4	70.1	7.3	3.0	14.2
Private nonprofit non-doctorate-granting	2.2 !	4.2	64.6	5.9	2.4	20.8
Private nonprofit doctorate-granting	0.6 !	1.9	80.2	5.0	1.9	10.4
Private for-profit	5.0	16.1	14.1	11.4	3.3	50.2
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	‡	‡	24.6 !	‡	‡	40.9 !
Certificate	37.9	‡	‡	8.3 !	3.5 !	42.1
Associate's degree	3.0	25.9	10.7	13.6	2.4	44.4
Bachelor's degree	1.8	3.3	66.3	7.5	2.6	18.4
Attendance intensity through 2017 <sup>1</sup>						
Always full time	1.7	3.7	69.5	3.1	0.8	21.1
Mixed	2.7	7.2	55.6	10.9	3.8	19.9
Always part time	1.4 !	7.0 !	‡	15.9	‡	71.4
Number of stopouts at all institutions through 2017 <sup>2</sup>						
None	1.0	4.3	72.9	3.5	0.5	17.8
One	4.5	9.8	32.4	16.4	6.2	30.8
Two	7.5	9.1	11.5	28.8	12.2	30.9
Three or more	9.9 !	12.8 !	‡	23.2	12.3 !	32.6
Sex						
Male	1.7	5.7	55.7	9.8	2.4	24.8
Female	2.8	6.2	61.7	7.2	2.8	19.4
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	2.0	4.6	66.9	8.1	2.4	16.0
19 years	2.2	5.2	62.2	7.4	2.9	20.2
20–23 years	4.8	9.4	22.0	12.8	5.4	45.5
24–29 years	3.8	13.5	8.4	12.2	1.2 !	60.9
30 years or older	4.0 !	20.6	14.2	8.5	1.2 !	51.6
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>						
White	1.7	5.6	64.8	7.2	1.9	18.8
Black	4.1	7.0	38.9	9.3	5.8	35.0
Hispanic	4.1	7.6	50.5	11.3	3.7	22.7
Asian	‡	3.4	72.1	9.9	1.6 !	11.9
American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	9.1 !	26.3	9.2 !	‡	47.2
Pacific Islander	‡	‡	44.5	‡	‡	38.0 !
Two or more races	1.9 !	5.5	54.5	8.5	1.9 !	27.6

See notes at end of table.



**Table 3. ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A 4-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence status at any institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12 <sup>4</sup>						
Dependent	2.0	4.9	64.8	7.8	2.7	17.7
Independent	4.6	13.0	19.3	11.4	2.1	49.5
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	3.4	9.4	28.0	11.2	1.1 !	46.9
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	5.0	12.4	11.8	12.5	4.1	54.2
Married, no dependent(s)	7.4 !	14.3 !	25.6	11.8 !	‡	39.0
Married, with dependent(s)	5.5 !	23.4	12.3	9.1	‡	49.6
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12 <sup>5</sup>						
High school diploma or less	3.8	8.0	38.0	11.8	3.9	34.5
Some postsecondary education	3.2	9.0	49.6	7.8	3.3	27.1
Bachelor's or higher degree	1.1	3.5	74.3	6.9	1.6	12.6
High school grade point average (GPA) <sup>6</sup>						
Below 2.00	2.9 !	10.0	19.1	8.8	6.1 !	53.2
2.00–2.49	3.7	9.8	34.3	13.3	4.4	34.5
2.50–2.99	2.4	7.7	46.5	10.3	3.9	29.3
3.00–3.49	2.6	5.8	61.6	9.2	2.3	18.5
3.50–4.00	1.2	2.2	77.3	4.7	1.9	12.6
Highest level of education expected, 2012 <sup>7</sup>						
Certificate or no degree	42.4	‡	‡	11.1 !	‡	29.3 !
Associate's degree	5.9	26.3	4.2	12.0	2.3 !	49.4
Bachelor's degree	2.7	7.8	50.6	9.5	2.7	26.7
Master's or higher degree	1.6	3.8	67.3	7.4	2.6	17.2

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error is between 30 and 50 percent of the estimate.

‡ Reporting standards not met either because the standard error is greater than 50 percent of the estimate or there were too few cases for a reliable estimate.

<sup>1</sup> Full-time status for the purposes of financial aid eligibility is based on 12 credit hours per term or 24 credit hours per academic year, unless the awarding institution employed a different standard.

<sup>2</sup> A stopout is defined as a break in enrollment of 5 or more consecutive months.

<sup>3</sup> Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Two or more races includes students having origins in more than one race. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic origin unless specified.

<sup>4</sup> Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Unmarried includes students who were separated, widowed, or divorced. Students are considered to have a dependent if they have a child or any others for whom they are the caretaker or have financial responsibility. A spouse is not considered to be a dependent.

<sup>5</sup> The 3 percent of beginning 4-year students who did not have parents' education information are included in the total but not shown separately. "Some postsecondary education" means that at least one parent attended postsecondary education and may have earned a credential up to an associate's degree, but neither parent earned a bachelor's or advanced degree.

<sup>6</sup> Information on high school GPA was not collected for students who were age 30 or older by the end of 2011 (4 percent of students beginning at a 4-year institution).

<sup>7</sup> "Master's or higher degree" includes postbaccalaureate and post-master's certificates.

NOTE: Estimates pertain to individuals who were first-time postsecondary students in 2011–12 at Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table 4. ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS:**  
**Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students' 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention**  
**status at first institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>25.3</b>
Control and level of first institution						
4-year	0.5	4.4	50.7	4.6	24.5	15.4
Public	0.4	4.4	50.9	5.5	24.9	13.8
Private nonprofit	‡	1.3 !	63.6	2.1	23.5	9.2
Private for-profit	1.6	12.9	11.4	6.3	24.8	42.8
2-year	8.4	20.9	0.1	7.0	26.2	37.4
Public	5.1	21.7	0.1	7.3	27.3	38.5
Private nonprofit	‡	22.6 !	‡	6.7 !	27.3 !	30.7 !
Private for-profit	36.6	13.4	‡	4.9	16.3	28.7
Less-than-2-year	45.8	‡	‡	‡	15.2	33.3
Public	50.9	‡	‡	‡	‡	25.5
Private nonprofit	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Private for-profit	44.8	‡	‡	‡	15.6	34.3
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	‡	6.1 !	2.6 !	12.7 !	39.1	37.2
Certificate	44.2	1.8	‡	6.0	15.2	32.7
Associate's degree	2.8	24.6	0.7	7.3	26.7	37.9
Bachelor's degree	0.2	1.3	57.5	3.9	24.8	12.3
Attendance intensity through 2017 <sup>1</sup>						
Always full time	6.9	8.1	43.7	1.5	14.1	25.7
Mixed	4.9	13.4	24.2	6.9	32.0	18.7
Always part time	5.8	5.3	‡	9.6	8.1	70.8
Number of stopouts at first institution through 2017 <sup>2</sup>						
None	4.1	10.7	34.2	1.3	27.6	22.0
One	9.6	13.6	9.0	14.7	18.0	35.1
Two or more	9.6	8.9	2.7	31.3	12.8	34.7
Sex						
Male	4.3	11.4	25.9	6.3	23.5	28.6
Female	6.4	11.0	28.6	5.2	25.9	22.8
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	3.0	10.6	36.5	5.6	25.9	18.4
19 years	4.0	10.5	30.7	5.3	26.7	22.9
20–23 years	11.6	11.8	5.3	7.3	27.9	36.1
24–29 years	11.8	12.1	2.1	5.9	15.9	52.2
30 years or older	15.1	16.4	3.4	5.0	14.1	45.9
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>						
White	4.9	11.8	32.3	4.8	23.1	23.2
Black	5.0	7.9	16.9	5.5	34.6	30.2
Hispanic	8.9	12.5	16.9	8.1	23.7	29.9
Asian	1.9	8.4	43.9	7.4	21.8	16.7
American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	5.3 !	10.3	7.3 !	31.4	32.9
Pacific Islander	‡	‡	14.7 !	‡	26.5	32.9
Two or more races	3.5	12.9	30.0	4.8	23.1	25.8

See notes at end of table.

**Table 4. ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS: Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students' 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention status at first institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12 <sup>4</sup>						
Dependent	3.8	10.8	33.6	5.4	26.0	20.3
Independent	11.9	12.6	5.0	6.4	20.6	43.5
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	9.3	12.9	7.8	6.3	23.1	40.4
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	12.6	10.2	3.4	7.1	20.6	46.1
Married, no dependent(s)	13.1	14.5	5.7 !	5.1 !	20.7	40.9
Married, with dependent(s)	15.1	15.9	2.3	6.0 !	15.6	45.0
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12 <sup>5</sup>						
High school diploma or less	8.7	12.1	12.9	6.9	23.9	35.5
Some postsecondary education	5.5	13.5	20.2	5.5	27.5	27.8
Bachelor's or higher degree	2.8	8.9	45.9	4.3	23.9	14.3
High school grade point average (GPA) <sup>6</sup>						
Below 2.00	7.6	10.4	3.9	7.4	28.4	42.3
2.00–2.49	7.7	12.9	10.2	7.9	29.0	32.2
2.50–2.99	6.2	11.1	20.0	6.6	28.8	27.2
3.00–3.49	4.0	11.8	31.1	5.8	25.8	21.6
3.50–4.00	2.6	7.9	48.9	3.4	21.2	16.0
Highest level of education expected, 2012 <sup>7</sup>						
Certificate or no degree	47.3	1.5 !	‡	5.1 !	12.6	33.4
Associate's degree	10.0	19.2	0.3 !	6.0	18.1	46.4
Bachelor's degree	3.3	12.8	22.2	6.5	27.4	27.8
Master's or higher degree	2.2	9.1	40.6	4.9	25.6	17.7

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error is between 30 and 50 percent of the estimate.

‡ Reporting standards not met either because the standard error is greater than 50 percent of the estimate or there are too few cases for a reliable estimate.

<sup>1</sup> Full-time status for the purposes of financial aid eligibility is based on 12 credit hours per term or 24 credit hours per academic year, unless the awarding institution employed a different standard.

<sup>2</sup> A stopout is defined as a break in enrollment of 5 or more consecutive months.

<sup>3</sup> Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Two or more races includes students having origins in more than one race. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic origin unless specified.

<sup>4</sup> Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Unmarried includes students who were separated, widowed, or divorced. Students are considered to have a dependent if they have a child or any others for whom they are the caretaker or have financial responsibility. A spouse is not considered to be a dependent.

<sup>5</sup> The 4 percent of all first-time students who did not have parents' education information are included in the total but not shown separately.

"Some postsecondary education" means that at least one parent attended postsecondary education and may have earned a credential up to an associate's degree, but neither parent earned a bachelor's or advanced degree.

<sup>6</sup> Information on high school GPA was not collected for students who were age 30 or older by the end of 2011 (7 percent).

<sup>7</sup> "Master's or higher degree" includes postbaccalaureate and post-master's certificates.

NOTE: Estimates pertain to individuals who were first-time postsecondary students in 2011–12 at Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table 5. ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A PUBLIC 2-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention status at first institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>38.5</b>
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	‡	7.2 !	‡	10.3 !	39.8	40.7
Certificate	36.2	2.9 !	‡	7.4 !	13.1	40.4
Associate's degree	3.1	23.5	0.2	7.2	27.9	38.2
Plan to continue to a bachelor's degree program within 5 years, 2011–12 <sup>1</sup>						
Yes	2.8	23.6	0.2	8.1	30.1	35.2
No	4.3	20.8	‡	4.3	21.1	49.5
Attendance intensity through 2017 <sup>2</sup>						
Always full time	5.1	23.5	‡	0.4 !	20.0	50.7
Mixed	5.0	26.3	0.1 !	8.4	34.4	25.8
Always part time	5.4	5.1	‡	8.6	8.6	72.4
Number of stopouts at first institution through 2017 <sup>3</sup>						
None	4.5	23.6	0.2	1.3	32.2	38.2
One	5.9	20.5	‡	16.2	18.3	39.1
Two or more	7.6 !	8.2	‡	31.9	13.3	38.9
Sex						
Male	4.7	20.9	#	7.3	24.6	42.6
Female	5.4	22.4	0.2 !	7.3	29.7	34.9
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	3.3	24.9	0.3 !	8.1	31.0	32.4
19 years	4.8	22.3	‡	6.8	29.7	36.3
20–23 years	7.1	14.6	‡	8.2	28.9	41.2
24–29 years	6.5	15.3	‡	5.1 !	15.9	57.2
30 years or older	10.2	20.0	‡	5.4 !	11.0	53.4
Race/ethnicity <sup>4</sup>						
White	5.7	24.3	0.2 !	6.0	24.9	39.0
Black	4.6	14.0	‡	6.8	36.2	38.3
Hispanic	4.8	19.4	‡	9.7	25.4	40.6
Asian	4.5 !	20.7	‡	11.3 !	35.0	28.0
American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	‡	‡	49.9	27.9 !
Pacific Islander	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡
Two or more races	1.1 !	31.0	‡	6.7 !	29.3	31.9

See notes at end of table.

**Table 5. ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A PUBLIC 2-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention status at first institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12 <sup>5</sup>						
Dependent	4.3	23.9	0.2	7.5	30.0	34.2
Independent	7.1	16.1	‡	6.8	20.3	49.7
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	6.7	17.9	‡	7.5	22.3	45.5
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	6.2	13.2	‡	7.6	19.9	53.1
Married, no dependent(s)	9.2 !	17.4	‡	‡	24.6	45.6
Married, with dependent(s)	7.9	16.5	‡	6.3 !	15.2	54.0
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12 <sup>6</sup>						
High school diploma or less	6.1	18.3	0.2 !	8.0	23.3	44.1
Some postsecondary education	4.2	23.1	‡	6.2	28.1	38.4
Bachelor's or higher degree	4.7	26.1	0.1 !	6.5	32.7	29.9
High school grade point average (GPA) <sup>7</sup>						
Below 2.00	2.4	13.6	‡	9.3	29.9	44.9
2.00–2.49	5.3	18.8	‡	8.5	29.6	37.9
2.50–2.99	4.2	20.9	‡	6.1	29.3	39.4
3.00–3.49	4.6	25.2	‡	7.6	27.6	34.9
3.50–4.00	4.7	24.0	0.7 !	6.3	30.4	33.9
Highest level of education expected, 2012 <sup>8</sup>						
Certificate or no degree	36.8	3.2 !	‡	2.3 !	10.2 !	47.5
Associate's degree	6.4	19.1	‡	6.1	17.8	50.6
Bachelor's degree	3.5	22.0	0.1 !	8.3	28.8	37.3
Master's or higher degree	3.5	24.5	0.3 !	7.2	32.3	32.3

# Rounds to zero.

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error is between 30 and 50 percent of the estimate.

‡ Reporting standards not met either because the standard error is greater than 50 percent of the estimate or there are too few cases for a reliable estimate.

<sup>1</sup> Information on future bachelor's degree plans was not collected for beginning public 2-year students who started in a certificate program (6 percent).

<sup>2</sup> Full-time status for the purposes of financial aid eligibility is based on 12 credit hours per term or 24 credit hours per academic year, unless the awarding institution employed a different standard.

<sup>3</sup> A stopout is defined as a break in enrollment of 5 or more consecutive months.

<sup>4</sup> Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Two or more races includes students having origins in more than one race. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic origin unless specified.

<sup>5</sup> Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Unmarried includes students who were separated, widowed, or divorced. Students are considered to have a dependent if they have a child or any others for whom they are the caretaker or have financial responsibility. A spouse is not considered to be a dependent.

<sup>6</sup> The 5 percent of beginning public 2-year students who did not have parents' education information are included in the total but not shown separately. "Some postsecondary education" means that at least one parent attended postsecondary education and may have earned a credential up to an associate's degree, but neither parent earned a bachelor's or advanced degree.

<sup>7</sup> Information on high school GPA was not collected for students who were age 30 or older by the end of 2011 (9 percent of students beginning at a public 2-year institution).

<sup>8</sup> "Master's or higher degree" includes postbaccalaureate and post-master's certificates.

NOTE: Estimates pertain to individuals who were first-time postsecondary students in 2011–12 at Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table 6. ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A 4-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention status at first institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>15.4</b>
Control and doctorate-granting status of first institution						
Public non-doctorate-granting	0.9 !	11.5	28.6	8.4	26.2	24.4
Public doctorate-granting	0.2	0.8	62.2	4.1	24.3	8.4
Private nonprofit non-doctorate- granting	‡	2.3 !	54.8	1.7	28.9	11.7
Private nonprofit doctorate- granting	‡	0.6 !	69.9	2.4	19.6	7.3
Private for-profit	1.6	12.9	11.4	6.3	24.8	42.8
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	‡	‡	14.3 !	‡	38.3 !	‡
Certificate	26.7	‡	‡	3.7 !	26.7	36.5
Associate's degree	0.8	27.4	3.8	9.2	21.4	37.5
Bachelor's degree	0.2	1.3	57.7	3.9	24.8	12.2
Attendance intensity through 2017 <sup>1</sup>						
Always full time	0.4 !	3.1	63.3	1.8	13.6	17.7
Mixed	0.5	4.9	45.6	5.7	31.5	11.7
Always part time	1.3 !	7.0 !	‡	15.4	5.8 !	67.5
Number of stopouts at first institution through 2017 <sup>2</sup>						
None	0.4	3.5	56.5	1.4	25.4	12.8
One	1.4	8.0	25.6	16.8	20.4	27.8
Two or more	‡	12.2	7.7	34.0	16.5	29.0
Sex						
Male	0.5	4.1	48.0	5.7	23.9	17.8
Female	0.6	4.5	52.8	3.7	24.9	13.5
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	0.3	3.1	57.9	4.4	23.8	10.4
19 years	0.4	3.3	52.8	4.1	25.6	13.7
20–23 years	‡	9.3	17.5	6.5	32.3	33.0
24–29 years	1.7 !	10.1	6.9	8.0	19.8	53.4
30 years or older	2.2 !	18.9	11.6	4.4	18.9	44.0
Race/ethnicity <sup>3</sup>						
White	0.4 !	4.2	55.3	3.9	23.1	13.1
Black	0.8	4.1	32.7	4.5	35.0	22.9
Hispanic	0.9	6.5	43.4	7.4	24.9	16.9
Asian	‡	2.7 !	64.9	5.6	15.8	10.9
American Indian or Alaska Native	‡	‡	24.9	‡	34.2	33.7
Pacific Islander	‡	‡	29.9 !	‡	27.5 !	31.1 !
Two or more races	‡	3.7 !	49.9	4.2 !	20.3	21.5

See notes at end of table.

**Table 6. ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A 4-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention status at first institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12 <sup>4</sup>						
Dependent	0.4	3.4	55.7	4.4	24.4	11.7
Independent	1.5	10.8	15.8	5.9	25.1	41.0
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	0.8 !	7.3	22.6	5.2	26.1	37.9
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	1.4 !	9.4	10.6	7.0	26.3	45.2
Married, no dependent(s)	1.6 !	12.9 !	20.7 !	7.1 !	22.1	35.7
Married, with dependent(s)	‡	22.2	8.8	4.5 !	20.7	40.8
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12 <sup>5</sup>						
High school diploma or less	1.0	6.4	32.1	6.2	27.2	27.1
Some postsecondary education	0.6 !	5.8	41.9	5.0	28.3	18.4
Bachelor's or higher degree	0.2	2.7	64.3	3.6	21.2	8.0
High school grade point average (GPA) <sup>6</sup>						
Below 2.00	0.2 !	6.6 !	14.7	5.2	32.3	41.1
2.00–2.49	1.0	6.0	27.5	8.1	32.9	24.4
2.50–2.99	0.8 !	4.4	38.6	6.6	30.9	18.6
3.00–3.49	0.4	4.0	52.8	4.8	25.1	12.9
3.50–4.00	‡	2.3	67.8	2.3	18.6	8.8
Highest level of education expected, 2012 <sup>7</sup>						
Certificate or no degree	28.5 !	‡	‡	‡	46.0	17.6
Associate's degree	2.5	22.7	1.9	8.7	20.9	43.3
Bachelor's degree	0.4 !	5.2	42.9	5.2	26.9	19.4
Master's or higher degree	0.3 !	2.9	58.2	4.0	23.1	11.5

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error is between 30 and 50 percent of the estimate.

‡ Reporting standards not met either because the standard error is greater than 50 percent of the estimate or there are too few cases for a reliable estimate.

<sup>1</sup> Full-time status for the purposes of financial aid eligibility is based on 12 credit hours per term or 24 credit hours per academic year, unless the awarding institution employed a different standard.

<sup>2</sup> A stopout is defined as a break in enrollment of 5 or more consecutive months.

<sup>3</sup> Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Two or more races includes students having origins in more than one race. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic origin unless specified.

<sup>4</sup> Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Unmarried includes students who were separated, widowed, or divorced. Students are considered to have a dependent if they have a child or any others for whom they are the caretaker or have financial responsibility. A spouse is not considered to be a dependent.

<sup>5</sup> The 3 percent of beginning 4-year students who did not have parents' education information are included in the total but not shown separately. "Some postsecondary education" means that at least one parent attended postsecondary education and may have earned a credential up to an associate's degree, but neither parent earned a bachelor's or advanced degree.

<sup>6</sup> Information on high school GPA was not collected for students who were age 30 or older by the end of 2011 (4 percent of students beginning at a 4-year institution).

<sup>7</sup> "Master's or higher degree" includes postbaccalaureate and post-master's certificates.

NOTE: Estimates pertain to individuals who were first-time postsecondary students in 2011–12 at Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

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# Appendix A—Glossary

This glossary includes descriptions of the variables used in this report. All of the variables come from the BPS:12/17 database, and the statistics in this report were generated by PowerStats, a web-based software application available to the public at <https://nces.ed.gov/datalab>. In the glossary, items are listed in alphabetical order by variable label. The name of each variable appears to the right of the variable label.

## Glossary Index

	VARIABLE
Age as of December 31, 2011 .....	AGE
Attainment and persistence at any institution through June 2017 .....	PRLVL6Y
Attainment and retention at first institution through June 2017 .....	PROUTF6Y
Attendance intensity through June 2017 .....	ENINPT6Y
Control and level of first institution, 2011–12 .....	FSECTOR
Control, level, and doctorate-granting status of first institution, 2011–12 .....	SECTOR10
Degree program, 2011–12 .....	UGDEG
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High school grade point average (GPA) .....	HSGPA
Number of stopouts at all institutions through June 2017 .....	STNUM6Y
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Plan to continue to a bachelor's degree program within 5 years, 2011–12 .....	EXPBA
Race/ethnicity .....	RACE
Sex .....	GENDER

## VARIABLE

**Age as of December 31, 2011****AGE**

This variable indicates the respondent's age as of December 31, 2011, and has the following categories:

- 18 years or younger
- 19 years
- 20–23 years
- 24–29 years
- 30 years or older

**Attainment and persistence at any institution through June 2017****PRLVL6Y**

This variable indicates the highest credential attained or, if no credential had been attained, the level of the institution where the respondent was last enrolled through June 2017. Respondents were considered to be enrolled through June 2017 if they were enrolled anywhere after January 2017. Students whose highest attainment was a bachelor's degree could have earned multiple bachelor's degrees. Students whose highest attainment was an associate's degree could have earned multiple associate's degrees but no bachelor's degree. Students whose highest attainment was a certificate could have earned multiple certificates but no associate's or bachelor's degrees. The variable has the following categories:

Attained credential from any institution by June 2017

- Highest credential
  - Certificate
  - Associate's degree
  - Bachelor's degree

Did not attain credential from any institution by June 2017

- Enrolled
  - At 4-year institution
  - At less-than-4-year institution
- Not enrolled

**Attainment and retention at first institution through June 2017****PROUTF6Y**

This variable indicates the respondent's attainment and retention status as of June 2017 at the first institution attended. The variable has the following categories:

Attained credential from first institution by June 2017

- Highest credential
  - Certificate
  - Associate's degree
  - Bachelor's degree

Did not attain credential from first institution by June 2017

- Still enrolled in the first institution (i.e., respondents who were enrolled in their first institution any month(s) after January 2017)
- Had left first institution, and had enrolled at another institution (i.e., respondents had left their first institution and had enrolled at another institution for 4 or more consecutive months without returning to their first institution. They may still be enrolled, have completed a credential at the institution they transferred to, or have transferred to another institution without completing a credential as of spring 2017)
- Had left first institution, and had never enrolled at another institution (i.e., respondents had left their first institution and had not enrolled elsewhere for 4 or more consecutive months as of June 2017)

## VARIABLE

**Attendance intensity through June 2017****ENINPT6Y**

This variable indicates the respondent's pattern of enrollment intensity for all months enrolled at all postsecondary institutions between July 2011 and June 2017. For purposes of financial aid eligibility, full-time status is generally based on 12 or more credit hours per term or 24 credit hours per academic year. The variable has the following categories:

- Always full time
- Mixed
- Always part time

**Control and level of first institution, 2011–12****FSECTOR**

This variable indicates the control and level of the first institution that the student attended in 2011–12. Control (of an institution) is a classification of whether an institution is operated by publicly elected or appointed officials (public control) or by privately elected or appointed officials (private control). Level is a classification of whether an institution's highest program offering was 4-year or higher (4-year), at least 2-but-less-than-4-year (2-year), or less-than-2-year. Public 2-year colleges are classified using the IPEDS definition, that is, including only postsecondary institutions that offer programs of at least 2- but-less-than-4 years' duration. The variable has the following categories:

- 4-year
  - Public
  - Private nonprofit
  - Private for-profit
- 2-year
  - Public
  - Private nonprofit
  - Private for-profit
- Less-than-2-year
  - Public
  - Private nonprofit
  - Private for-profit

**Control, level, and doctorate-granting status of first institution, 2011–12****SECTOR10**

This variable indicates the control and doctorate-granting status of the first institution that the student attended in 2011–12 and is used in combination with FSECTOR in this report. The variable has the following categories:

- Public
  - Less-than-2-year
  - 2-year
  - 4-year, non-doctorate-granting
  - 4-year, doctorate-granting
- Private nonprofit
  - Less-than-4-year
  - 4-year, non-doctorate-granting
  - 4-year, doctorate-granting
- Private for-profit
  - Less-than-2-year
  - 2-year
  - 4-year

## VARIABLE

**Degree program, 2011–12****UGDEG**

This variable indicates the respondent's degree program in 2011–12. This variable was edited to ensure that the degree program respondents reported was actually offered by their institution. Respondents who reported working on a bachelor's degree at a 2-year college were classified as enrolled in an associate's degree program. Respondents who reported working on a bachelor's degree or an associate's degree at a less-than-2-year institution were classified as enrolled in a certificate program. The variable has the following categories:

- No certificate or degree
- Certificate
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree

**Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12****DEPEND5B**

This variable indicates the respondent's dependency status for 2011–12 federal financial aid. For independent students, this variable further indicates their marital status and whether they had any dependents in 2011–12. Respondents were considered to be financially independent of their parents for financial aid purposes in 2011–12 if they were age 24 or older as of December 31, 2011, or if they met any of the following criteria: were married; had legal dependents; were veterans of the U.S. armed forces or on active duty; were orphans or wards of the court; were homeless or at risk of homelessness; or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other respondents under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Respondents who were divorced, married but separated, or widowed were classified as unmarried. Respondents were considered to have a dependent if they had a child or any others for whom they were the caretaker or had financial responsibility. A spouse was not considered to be a dependent. The variable has the following categories:

- Dependent
- Independent
  - Unmarried, no dependent(s)
  - Unmarried, with dependent(s)
  - Married, no dependent(s)
  - Married, with dependent(s)

**Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12****PAREDUC**

This variable indicates the highest level of education achieved by either parent of the respondent as of 2011–12 and has the following categories:

- High school diploma or less
- Some postsecondary education (up to associate's degree)
- Bachelor's degree or higher
- Both parents' highest educational attainment is unknown

Note that "some postsecondary education" means that at least one parent had enrolled in postsecondary education and may have earned a credential up to an associate's degree, but neither parent had earned a bachelor's or advanced degree.

## VARIABLE

**Highest level of education expected, 2012****HIGHLVEX**

This variable indicates the highest level of education the respondent ever expected to complete and has the following categories:

- Certificate or no degree
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's or higher degree (including postbaccalaureate or post-master's certificates)

**High school grade point average (GPA)****HSGPA**

This variable indicates the respondent's high school GPA, according to the respondent's self-report on his/her standardized test questionnaire and the base-year student interview. For respondents with both College Board and ACT score reports, high school GPA from the more recent test date was used. The high school GPA data were not collected for respondents age 30 or older. The variable has the following categories:

- Below 2.00
- 2.00–2.49
- 2.50–2.99
- 3.00–3.49
- 3.50–4.00

**Number of stopouts at all institutions through June 2017****STNUM6Y**

This variable indicates the total number of stopouts that the respondent had at all institutions attended through June 2017. A stopout is defined as a break in enrollment of 5 or more consecutive months. This variable has the following categories:

- None
- One
- Two
- Three or more

**Number of stopouts at first institution through June 2017****STNUFI6Y**

This variable indicates the total number of stopouts that the respondent had at the first institution attended through June 2017. A stopout is defined as a break in enrollment of 5 or more consecutive months. This variable has the following categories:

- None
- One
- Two or more

**Plan to continue to a bachelor's degree program within 5 years, 2011–12****EXPBA**

This variable indicates whether the respondent who started in an associate's degree program intended to enroll in a bachelor's degree program within 5 years as of 2011–12 and has the following categories:

- Yes
- No

## VARIABLE

**Race/ethnicity****RACE**

This variable indicates the respondent's race/ethnicity with Hispanic or Latino origin as a separate category. All of the race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified. The variable has the following categories:

White	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
Black	A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
Hispanic	A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
Asian	A person having origins in any of the peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. This includes people from China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, India, and Vietnam.
American Indian or Alaska Native	A person reporting origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition (American Indians) or are Alaska Natives.
Pacific Islander	A person having origins in the Pacific Islands including Hawaii and Samoa.
Two or more races	A person reporting origins in more than one race.

**Sex****GENDER**

This variable indicates the respondent's sex.

Male  
Female



# Appendix B—BPS:12/17 Technical Notes and Methodology

## Overview

The Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS) is one of several studies developed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to address the need for nationally representative data on key postsecondary education issues such as persistence in and completion of postsecondary education programs; transition to employment; demographic characteristics; and changes over time in students' goals, marital status, income, and debt, among other indicators.

BPS is a follow-up to the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS) and focuses on students who are beginning postsecondary education for the first time in the academic year of the sampled institution in NPSAS. Once these beginning students are identified, BPS follows them to monitor their progress over a period of up to 6 years.

The 2012 Beginning Postsecondary Students (BPS:12) cohort is the fourth cohort of students to be tracked by NCES since the first cohort was selected in 1990. The 2012/14 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/14) was the first follow-up data collection with this cohort and the 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17) is the second follow-up.

As with previous BPS studies, BPS:12/17 includes a multimode student interview component that collects information on students' education and employment since their first year in postsecondary education. The instrument was administered in two user modes: web (nonmobile and mobile) and telephone.

## Data Sources for BPS:12/17

Data for BPS:12/17 were obtained from the following sources:<sup>1</sup>

- **Interview:** Data collected directly from sampled students via web and telephone.
- **Student records:** Institution-provided information from student financial aid records and other institutional sources.
- **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS):** U.S. Department of Education NCES database of descriptive information about individual postsecondary institutions.
- **Central Processing System (CPS):** U.S. Department of Education database of federal financial aid applications.
- **National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS):** U.S. Department of Education database of federal Title IV loans and Pell Grants.
- **SAT and ACT:** Scores on admissions tests administered by the College Board and ACT, respectively.
- **National Student Clearinghouse (NSC):** A central repository for postsecondary enrollment, degree, and certificate records provided by participating postsecondary institutions.

BPS:12/17 also includes some data that were originally collected for NPSAS:12. Table B-1 shows whether a data source was new for the given study (N), carried over from the previous round without being refreshed (CO), or carried over from the previous round but refreshed, in which case the data were rematched (R).

**Table B-1. Data sources for NPSAS:12, BPS:12/14, and BPS:12/17**

Data source	NPSAS:12	BPS:12/14	BPS:12/17
Interviews	N	N	N
Student records	N	CO	R
Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)	N	R	R
Central Processing System (CPS)	N	R	R
National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS)	N	R	R
SAT	N	CO	CO
ACT	N	CO	CO
National Student Clearinghouse (NSC)	N	R	R

NOTE: N = new data source. CO = data carried over from previous round and not refreshed. R = data carried over from previous round and refreshed.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12), 2012/14 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/14), and 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

<sup>1</sup> Additional third-party data sources (e.g., Veterans Benefits Administration databases) may be included in the final data files.

## Sample Design

### ***Base-Year Study (NPSAS:12)***

To be eligible for inclusion in NPSAS:12, students<sup>2</sup> must have been part of the student universe at an institution included in the NPSAS:12 institution universe. The target population for BPS:12/17 consisted of all students who began their postsecondary education for the first time during the 2011–12 academic year at any postsecondary institution in the United States that was eligible for inclusion in NPSAS:12.

To be eligible for NPSAS:12, students had to be enrolled in a NPSAS-eligible institution in any term or course of instruction at any time from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012. Students also had to meet additional eligibility criteria detailed in the NPSAS:12 Data File Documentation (Wine, Bryan, and Siegel 2014).

### **Institution Sample for NPSAS:12**

NPSAS:12 statisticians constructed an institution sampling frame prior to the study's field test. From this sampling frame, NPSAS staff selected the field-test sample of institutions as well as 1,670 institutions for the full-scale sample. Table B-2 shows the number of institutions that were sampled, the number of eligible institutions, and the number and unweighted and weighted percentages of eligible institutions providing enrollment lists, by control and level of institution.

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<sup>2</sup> Sample members are referred to as “students” here because they were students during the 2011–12 academic year, when sample selection occurred.

**Table B-2. Numbers of sampled and eligible institutions, number of eligible institutions providing enrollment lists, and unweighted and weighted participation rates, by control and level of institution: 2011–12**

Control and level of institution <sup>1</sup>	Sampled institutions	Eligible institutions	Eligible institutions providing lists		
			Number	Unweighted percent	Weighted percent <sup>2</sup>
<b>All institutions</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>87.8</b>	<b>87.0</b>
Control of institution					
Public	760	760	670	88.5	87.3
Private nonprofit	500	500	440	88.4	86.7
Private for-profit	430	430	370	85.9	85.6
Level of institution					
Less-than-2-year	80	80	70	79.5	79.8
2-year	510	510	430	83.9	83.6
4-year, non-doctorate-granting	630	630	570	90.5	90.5
4-year, doctorate-granting	470	470	420	89.9	89.2
<b>Control, level, and doctorate-granting status of first institution</b>					
Public					
Less-than-2-year	20	20	20	77.3	78.8
2-year	380	380	320	85.3	84.1
4-year, non-doctorate-granting	130	130	120	93.8	92.3
4-year, doctorate-granting	230	230	210	91.7	90.5
Private nonprofit					
Less-than-4-year	20	20	20	75.0	77.7
4-year, non-doctorate-granting	260	260	230	88.8	87.6
4-year, doctorate-granting	220	220	200	89.1	86.4
Private for-profit					
Less-than-2-year	60	50	40	81.5	80.3
2-year	120	120	90	80.0	77.5
4-year	260	260	230	89.5	89.5

<sup>1</sup> Control and level of institution are based on data from the sampling frame formed from IPEDS:2008–09 and freshened from IPEDS:2009–10. IPEDS = Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

<sup>2</sup> The base weight was used to produce the estimates in this column.

NOTE: Percentages are based on the unrounded number of eligible institutions within the row under consideration. Sample sizes rounded to the nearest 10. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

### Student Sample for NPSAS:12

Sampled institutions provided lists of eligible students, whom NPSAS staff then selected by stratified systematic sampling with predetermined rates that varied by student stratum. NPSAS staff defined sampled members as “study members” if data collection established that the sample member was eligible for the study and had valid data from any data source<sup>3</sup> for a minimum number of key variables. Table B-3 shows the number of students sampled, the number of eligible students, and the unweighted and weighted percentages of study members, by control and level of institution.

<sup>3</sup> A study member must have had valid data for at least one key variable from at least one source other than CPS.

**Table B-3. Numbers of sampled and eligible students and unweighted and weighted percentage of eligible students who were study members in 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12), by control and level of institution: 2012**

Control and level of institution <sup>1</sup>	Sampled students	Eligible students <sup>2</sup>	Study members <sup>3</sup>	
			Unweighted percent	Weighted percent <sup>4</sup>
<b>All institutions</b>	<b>128,120</b>	<b>123,600</b>	<b>89.9</b>	<b>91.0</b>
Control of institution				
Public	66,500	64,080	89.5	90.0
Private nonprofit	19,680	19,240	92.9	94.7
Private for-profit	41,940	40,280	88.9	91.4
Level of institution				
Less-than-2-year	6,380	5,910	93.0	84.7
2-year	48,040	45,680	86.5	86.6
4-year, non-doctorate-granting	37,530	36,370	88.6	93.2
4-year, doctorate-granting	36,170	35,650	94.9	94.3
<b>Control, level, and doctorate-granting status of first institution</b>				
Public				
Less-than-2-year	790	730	81.5	88.3
2-year	37,000	35,140	86.1	86.3
4-year, non-doctorate-granting	8,180	7,930	91.8	91.9
4-year, doctorate-granting	20,530	20,280	94.8	94.3
Private nonprofit				
Less-than-4-year	1,090	1,010	91.9	94.7
4-year, non-doctorate-granting	8,520	8,300	92.4	95.9
4-year, doctorate-granting	10,070	9,920	93.5	93.8
Private for-profit				
Less-than-2-year	5,270	4,900	94.8	84.1
2-year	10,280	9,800	87.5	90.0
4-year	26,390	25,580	88.3	93.7

<sup>1</sup> Control and level of institution are based on data from the sampling frame formed from IPEDS:2008–09 and freshened from IPEDS:2009–10. IPEDS = Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

<sup>2</sup> Sample member eligibility was determined during the student interview or from institutional records in the absence of a student interview.

<sup>3</sup> A study member is defined as an eligible sample member for whom sufficient key data were obtained from one or more sources.

<sup>4</sup> The base weight was used to produce the estimates in this column.

NOTE: Percentages are based on the unrounded number of eligible students within the row under consideration. Sample sizes rounded to the nearest 10. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12).

### ***First Follow-Up Study (BPS:12/14)***

The target population for BPS:12/14 consists of all students who began postsecondary education for the first time during the 2011–12 academic year at any Title IV eligible postsecondary institution in the United States. BPS:12/14 obtained its sample of first-time beginning students (FTBs) from the NPSAS:12 student sample, which included students of both known and unknown FTB status. Staff used additional information and administrative data sources to determine the FTB status of NPSAS:12 sample members.

When NPSAS:12 concluded, 30,080 students had been interviewed and confirmed to be FTBs, and all were included in the BPS:12/14 sample. In addition, a subsample of 7,090 NPSAS:12 nonrespondents who were considered potential FTBs based on student records or institution lists were included in the BPS:12/14 sample. As a

result, about 37,170 students became BPS:12/14 sample members. Information gathered during data collection established that some potential FTBs were not FTBs and were therefore ineligible for the BPS:12/14 study. BPS:12/14 staff defined a “student interview respondent” as any sample member who was eligible for inclusion in the study and had a completed, partial, or abbreviated BPS:12/14 interview. Among the BPS:12/14 eligible sample students (about 35,540), the weighted interview response rate was 68 percent. See Hill et al. (2016) for additional details on sampling.

### ***Second Follow-Up Study (BPS:12/17)***

The BPS:12/17 sample was a subset of the BPS:12/14 sample, in that BPS:12/14 sample members determined to not be FTB students were ineligible and, therefore, excluded from the BPS:12/17 sample. Deceased individuals were also excluded from the BPS:12/17 sample. Although 1,790 sample members who did not respond to the BPS:12/14 interview and lacked sufficient information to be classified as NPSAS:12 study members were eligible for BPS:12/17, these cases were not fielded in BPS:12/17.

In addition, early in the data collection period, the names of 30 sample members were matched to names on the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List, published by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control. The matched individuals were excluded from data collection activities, treated as study nonrespondents for purposes of response rate calculation, and accounted for with weight adjustments. Table B-4 summarizes the BPS:12/17 sampled, eligible, and responding individuals, by control and level of institution. Table B-5 provides contextual information on student populations represented by BPS:12/17 sample members overall and in selected types of institutions. The design of the BPS:12/17 sample is described in detail in Ifill et al. (2016) (see p. B-2) and the BPS:12/17 Data File Documentation (Bryan, Cooney, and Elliott forthcoming).

**Table B-4. Numbers of sampled and eligible students and response rates, by control and level of institution: 2012–17**

Control and level of institution <sup>1</sup>	Sampled students	Eligible students <sup>2</sup>	Respondents	Interview respondents <sup>3</sup>	
				Unweighted response rate	Weighted response rate <sup>4</sup>
<b>All institutions</b>	<b>35,540</b>	<b>35,170</b>	<b>22,530</b>	<b>64.1</b>	<b>66.6</b>
Control of institution					
Public	16,490	16,380	10,840	66.2	66.2
Private nonprofit	5,410	5,400	4,080	75.6	74.2
Private for-profit	13,640	13,390	7,620	56.9	54.7
Level of institution					
Less-than-2-year	1,830	1,770	940	53.0	51.0
2-year	14,460	14,300	8,680	60.7	60.8
4-year, non-doctorate-granting	11,990	11,870	7,480	63.0	68.7
4-year, doctorate-granting	7,270	7,230	5,430	75.2	73.6
<b>Control, level, and doctorate-granting status of first institution</b>					
Public					
Less-than-2-year	230	220	120	55.2	54.7
2-year	10,930	10,830	6,700	61.9	61.2
4-year, non-doctorate-granting	1,890	1,880	1,360	72.3	68.2
4-year, doctorate-granting	3,450	3,450	2,660	77.1	73.6
Private nonprofit					
Less-than-4-year	350	350	210	59.7	58.7
4-year, non-doctorate-granting	2,380	2,370	1,750	74.0	73.3
4-year, doctorate-granting	2,680	2,680	2,120	79.1	75.7
Private for-profit					
Less-than-2-year	1,500	1,450	770	53.0	50.7
2-year	3,280	3,220	1,820	56.5	55.3
4-year	8,860	8,720	5,030	57.7	56.8

<sup>1</sup> Control and level of institution are based on data from the 2011–12 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12) sampling frame.

<sup>2</sup> Sample member eligibility was determined during the student interview or from institutional records in the absence of a student interview.

<sup>3</sup> An interview respondent is defined as an eligible sample member who either completed a full interview, completed an abbreviated interview, or completed at least the enrollment section.

<sup>4</sup> The base weight adjusted for unknown eligibility was used to produce the estimates in this column.

NOTE: Percentages are based on the unrounded number of eligible students. Sample sizes rounded to the nearest 10. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table B-5. Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students, by control and level of first institution and selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

<b>Selected enrollment and student characteristics</b>	<b>All first-time postsecondary students</b>	<b>First-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution</b>	<b>First-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Control, level, and doctorate-granting status of first institution			
4-year	54.0	†	100.0
Public	32.0	†	59.3
Non-doctorate-granting	10.8	†	19.9
Doctorate-granting	21.2	†	39.3
Private nonprofit	16.5	†	30.5
Non-doctorate-granting	6.9	†	12.8
Doctorate-granting	9.5	†	17.7
Private for-profit	5.5	†	10.2
2-year	42.3	100.0	†
Public	37.5	100.0	†
Private nonprofit	0.5	†	†
Private for-profit	4.3	†	†
Less-than-2-year	3.7	†	†
Public	0.6	†	†
Private nonprofit	0.1 !	†	†
Private for-profit	2.9	†	†
Degree program, 2011–12			
No certificate or degree	1.3	2.8	0.4
Certificate	9.6	6.0	0.9
Associate's degree	41.9	90.7	11.6
Bachelor's degree	47.2	†	87.0
Plan to continue to a bachelor's degree program within 5 years, 2011–12			
Yes	33.7	73.7	9.1
No	9.6	19.8	3.0
Missing <sup>1</sup>	56.7	6.5	88.0
Attendance intensity through 2017 <sup>2</sup>			
Always full time	27.7	14.0	35.3
Mixed	63.3	66.4	62.0
Always part time	9.1	19.7	2.7
Number of stopouts at first institution through 2017 <sup>3</sup>			
None	74.6	67.6	83.5
One	19.9	25.1	12.9
Two or more	5.6	7.3	3.6
Number of stopouts at all institutions through 2017 <sup>3</sup>			
None	61.2	55.0	70.0
One	27.6	31.2	22.2
Two	9.5	11.4	6.8
Three or more	1.7	2.4	1.1
Sex			
Male	43.5	46.3	43.3
Female	56.5	53.7	56.7
Age as of December 31, 2011			
18 years or younger	50.6	44.6	58.9
19 years	26.3	25.1	28.3
20–23 years	9.8	13.1	5.5
24–29 years	6.1	7.9	3.4
30 years or older	7.2	9.3	3.8

See notes at end of table.



**Table B-5. Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students, by control and level of first institution and selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

<b>Selected enrollment and student characteristics</b>	<b>All first-time postsecondary students</b>	<b>First-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution</b>	<b>First-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution</b>
Race/ethnicity <sup>4</sup>			
White	56.8	54.4	61.4
Black	14.1	13.8	13.5
Hispanic	18.9	23.1	13.6
Asian	5.2	4.3	6.5
American Indian or Alaska Native	1.0	0.8 †	0.8
Pacific Islander	0.4	0.4	0.3
Two or more races	3.5	3.2	3.9
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12 <sup>5</sup>			
Dependent	78.3	72.4	87.4
Independent	21.7	27.6	12.6
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	7.7	10.5	5.0
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	8.1	8.8	4.7
Married, no dependent(s)	1.8	2.7	0.9
Married, with dependent(s)	4.1	5.7	2.0
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12			
High school diploma or less	30.9	37.6	22.8
Some postsecondary education <sup>6</sup>	26.6	31.0	23.7
Bachelor's or higher degree	38.6	26.2	51.0
Both parents' highest educational attainment is unknown	4.0	5.1	2.6
High school grade point average (GPA)			
Below 2.00	4.7	7.5	2.3
2.00–2.49	15.8	21.3	10.8
2.50–2.99	12.8	13.5	12.3
3.00–3.49	35.2	32.8	38.3
3.50–4.00	24.3	15.6	32.4
Missing <sup>7</sup>	7.2	9.3	3.8
Highest level of education expected, 2012			
Certificate or no degree	4.6	3.0	0.4
Associate's degree	11.0	19.3	3.2
Bachelor's degree	37.4	43.3	35.7
Master's or higher degree <sup>8</sup>	47.1	34.4	60.7

† Not applicable.

! Interpret data with caution. Estimate is unstable because the standard error is between 30 and 50 percent of the estimate.

‡ Reporting standards not met either because the standard error is greater than 50 percent of the estimate or there are too few cases for a reliable estimate.

<sup>1</sup> Information on future bachelor's degree plans was not collected for first-time students who started in a certificate or bachelor's degree program.<sup>2</sup> Full-time status for the purposes of financial aid eligibility is based on 12 credit hours per term or 24 credit hours per academic year, unless the awarding institution employed a different standard.<sup>3</sup> A stopout is defined as a break in enrollment of 5 or more consecutive months.<sup>4</sup> Black includes African American, Hispanic includes Latino, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Two or more races includes students having origins in more than one race. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic origin unless specified.<sup>5</sup> Independent students are age 24 or over and students under 24 who are married, have dependents, are veterans or on active duty, are orphans or wards of the courts, are homeless or at risk of homelessness, or were determined to be independent by a financial aid officer using professional judgment. Other undergraduates under age 24 are considered to be dependent. Unmarried includes students who were separated, widowed, or divorced. Students are considered to have a dependent if they have a child or any others for whom they are the caretaker or have financial responsibility. A spouse is not considered to be a dependent.<sup>6</sup> "Some postsecondary education" means that at least one parent attended postsecondary education and may have earned a credential up to an associate's degree, but neither parent earned a bachelor's or advanced degree.<sup>7</sup> Information on high school GPA was not collected for students who were age 30 or older by the end of 2011.<sup>8</sup> "Master's or higher degree" includes postbaccalaureate and post-master's certificates.

NOTE: Estimates pertain to individuals who were first-time postsecondary students in 2011–12 at Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

## Weighting and Imputation

BPS:12/17 statisticians computed weight variables to represent the target populations described in the Sample Design section. The weights compensate for the unequal probability of selection of institutions and students in the NPSAS:12 sample and ensure that estimates generated from sample data represent the target population. The weights also adjust for multiplicity<sup>4</sup> at the institution and student levels, unknown student eligibility for NPSAS:12, and subsampling of first-time beginners while creating the BPS cohort during BPS:12/14. Finally, the weights adjust for unknown eligibility, nonresponse, and population coverage in BPS:12/17.

Because some BPS:12/17 respondents were nonrespondents in NPSAS:12, BPS:12/14, or both, two analysis weights were constructed for BPS:12/17. The first weight (WTA000), created for all BPS:12/17 interview respondents regardless of their NPSAS:12 or BPS:12/14 response status, was a cross-sectional weight. The second weight (WTB000), created for all BPS:12/17 respondents who also responded in BPS:12/14, serves as the panel weight.

Missing data were also imputed for all variables used in this report and most of those included in the BPS:12/17 PowerStats and QuickStats applications. The imputation procedure included a weighted sectional hot deck process (Cox 1980)<sup>5</sup> followed by a cyclic *n*-partition hot deck process (Marker, Judkins, and Winglee 2002).

Additional details regarding the creation and use of weights and imputation procedures are available in the BPS:12/17 Data File Documentation (Bryan, Cooney, and Elliott forthcoming).

## Response Rates and Nonresponse Biases

As shown in table B-4, the BPS:12/17 weighted interview response rate for students was 66.6 percent overall and ranged from 50.7 percent for for-profit less-than-2-year institutions to 75.7 percent for public 4-year doctorate-granting institutions. As the response rates are below 85 percent, as required by NCES Statistical Standards

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<sup>4</sup> After the NPSAS:12 institution sample selection, data collection identified cases where institutions merged or student enrollment lists for two or more campuses were submitted as one combined student list. In these instances, staff computed weight adjustments for the joint probability of selection. Likewise, students who attended more than one institution during the NPSAS year also had multiple chances of selection. If the student interview or student loan file data indicated that a student had attended more than one institution, the staff computed adjustment factors to account for multiple chances of selection.

<sup>5</sup> The term *hot deck* refers to the fact that the set of potential donors comes from the same dataset. In contrast, *cold deck* procedures use donors from an external dataset or source.

(Seastrom 2014), a student-level nonresponse bias analysis was conducted overall and within each institution category for BPS:12/17.

Bias due to interview nonresponse was estimated for characteristics known for most respondents and nonrespondents. These characteristics include institution- and student-level variables available from CPS and NPSAS:12. Bias was estimated before and after nonresponse weight adjustment in order to examine the impact of the nonresponse adjustment. The analyses found little evidence of nonresponse bias and that most statistically significant differences were eliminated by the nonresponse adjustment. For more information on the student interview nonresponse bias analysis, refer to the BPS:12/17 Data File Documentation (Bryan, Cooney, and Elliott forthcoming). For more information on the school-level unit nonresponse bias analysis, refer to NPSAS:12 Data File Documentation (Wine, Bryan, and Siegel 2014).

Of the 16 variables used in this report, 6 items had a weighted response rate below 85 percent, 10 items had a weighted response rate below 85 percent for at least one institution type, and 3 items had a weighted response rate below 85 percent for all institution types (table B-6). A nonresponse bias analysis was conducted for the 10 items with any response rates below 85 percent following procedures similar to the unit nonresponse bias analysis. This analysis found that nonresponse bias was significantly reduced for 9 out of 10 variables after imputation. Nonresponse bias was not significantly reduced for *Plan to continue to a bachelor's degree program within 5 years, 2011–12*. For more information on the item-level nonresponse bias analysis, refer to the BPS:12/17 Data File Documentation (Bryan, Cooney, and Elliott forthcoming).

Table B-6. Weighted item response rates for all students, by control and level of institution: 2012–17

Variable	Variable label	All students	Public less-than-2-year	Public 2-year	Public 4-year non-doctorate-granting	Public 4-year doctorate-granting	Private nonprofit less-than-4-year	Private nonprofit 4-year non-doctorate-granting	Private nonprofit 4-year doctorate-granting	Private for-profit less-than-2-year	Private for-profit 2-year	Private for-profit 4-year
AGE	Age as of December 31, 2011	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
DEPEND5B	Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12	70.6	65.8	65.3	67.3	73.6	80.4	72.9	72.7	80.8	82.0	79.3
ENINPT6Y	Attendance intensity through 2017	81.3	62.2	85.7	88.7	92.0	43.8	90.2	94.5	19.8	31.0	45.2
EXPBA	Plan to continue to a bachelor's degree program within 5 years, 2011–12	68.4	‡	67.2	72.6	‡	76.5	80.3	94.1	‡	63.7	78.3
FSECTOR	Control and level of first institution	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
GENDER	Sex	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
HIGHLVEX	Highest level of education expected, 2012	85.7	92.6	82.4	86.4	90.0	83.4	87.2	92.2	89.4	81.2	79.1
HSGPA	High school grade point average (GPA)	59.6	25.7	41.4	70.5	84.6	41.3	84.4	83.8	17.8	25.3	26.7
PAREduc	Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12	76.6	67.6	74.9	72.3	79.1	79.0	75.2	82.6	78.9	77.3	76.9
PRLVL6Y	Attainment or level of last institution enrolled through 2017	92.0	85.2	94.1	94.9	98.4	79.6	96.4	98.5	67.5	71.7	63.9
PROUTF6Y	Attainment or retention at first institution through 2017	86.6	78.4	88.3	91.3	94.9	62.8	93.0	96.9	52.7	61.8	54.1
RACE	Race/ethnicity	94.5	95.2	93.0	95.6	97.7	89.8	94.8	97.2	91.9	87.5	91.6
SECTOR10	Control, level, and doctorate-granting status of first institution	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
STNUFI6Y	Number of stopouts at first institution through 2017	88.2	69.7	93.4	94.9	97.9	47.9	96.2	98.5	29.3	38.2	56.3
STNUM6Y	Number of stopouts anywhere through 2017	81.3	62.2	85.7	88.7	92.0	43.8	90.2	94.5	19.8	31.0	45.2
UGDEG	Degree program, 2011–12	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

‡ Reporting standards not met either because the standard error is greater than 50 percent of the estimate or there are too few cases for a reliable estimate.

NOTE: Weighted item response rates are calculated as the number of respondents for whom an in-scope response was obtained divided by the number of respondents who are eligible to respond to the item.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

## Variance Estimation

The complex sampling design used in BPS:12/17 must be taken into account when calculating variance estimates such as standard errors. To facilitate computation of standard errors for both linear and nonlinear statistics, BPS:12/17 statisticians computed a vector of bootstrap sample weights for both the cross-sectional (WTA001–WTA200) and panel weights (WTB001–WTB200). These weights are zero for units not selected in a particular bootstrap sample. Weights for other units are inflated for the bootstrap subsampling. Assuming  $B$  sets of replicate weights, the variance of any estimate,  $\hat{\theta}$ , can be estimated by replicating the estimation procedure for each replicate and computing a simple variance of the replicate estimates:

$$Var(\hat{\theta}) = \frac{\sum_{b=1}^B (\hat{\theta}_b^{\circ} - \hat{\theta})^2}{B}$$

where  $\hat{\theta}_b^{\circ}$  is the estimate based on the  $b$ -th replicate weight (where  $b = 1$  to the number of replicates), and  $B$  is the total number of sets of replicate weights ( $B = 200$  for BPS:12/17). Once the replicate weights are provided, this estimate can be produced by most survey software packages, such as SUDAAN, WesVAR, or Stata.

BPS:12/17 statisticians produced the replicate weights using a method that combines the approaches developed by Flyer (1987) and Kott (1988). The BPS:12/17 method incorporated the finite population correction factor only at the first stage (NPSAS:12 institution sampling).

## Cautions for Analysts

### Sources of Error

The estimates in this report are subject to sampling and nonsampling errors. Sampling errors exist in all sample-based datasets, including BPS:12/17. Estimates calculated from one sample will differ from estimates calculated from other samples even if all the samples used the same sample design and methods.

The standard error is a measure of the precision of the estimate accounting for sampling error. For this report, analysts calculated standard errors using bootstrap replication procedures in PowerStats. Tables C-1 to C-7 in appendix C provide the standard errors for the population estimates presented in tables 1–6 and table B-5.

Nonsampling errors are due to many issues, including but not limited to nonresponse, coding and data entry errors, misspecification of composite variables,

and inaccurate imputations. A study like BPS:12/17 includes multiple sources of data for some variables (CPS, institutional records, student interviews, NSC, etc.), and reporting differences can occur among data sources. To protect study members' confidentiality, data swapping and other forms of perturbation were implemented, which can also lead to inconsistencies.

### ***Comparing BPS:12/17 Estimates to Prior BPS Estimates***

Comparison of BPS:12/17 results with those for prior cohorts of BPS requires information on how the NPSAS sample has changed over time. For details on these NPSAS sample changes, see Wine, Siegel, and Stollberg (2018). The BPS:12/17 analysis file contains records for all BPS sample members who responded to the student interview. BPS:04/09, however, made use of data from other sources, including NSC, to define study respondents who were not interview respondents but had sufficient data from these other sources. BPS:04/09 statisticians imputed missing data for study respondents who had not responded to the BPS:04/09 interview. For details, see Wine, Janson, and Wheelless (2011). In previous rounds of BPS, records for the interview nonrespondents appeared on the file but did not have data items and had a value of zero for the analysis weight.

Enrollment and attainment estimates for BPS:12/17 are higher than those in previous iterations of BPS, including those produced in BPS:12/14 and BPS:04/09. Improvements in matching to administrative sources as well as the addition of sources resulted in higher estimates of these key variables. As a result of increased enrollment estimates, other estimates may be impacted (e.g., transfer, number of institutions attended, employment while enrolled).

## **PowerStats**

The estimates in this report were produced using PowerStats, a web-based software application that enables users to generate tables for most of the surveys conducted by NCES. PowerStats can use replicate weights produced with Balanced Repeated Replication, jackknifing, or bootstrapping to generate the design-adjusted standard errors necessary for testing the statistical significance of differences in the estimates. PowerStats also describes how each variable was created and includes question wording for variables based on specific survey items. With PowerStats, users can replicate or expand upon the tables presented in this report.

The output from PowerStats includes the table estimates (e.g., percentages or means), their design-adjusted standard errors, and their weighted sample sizes. If the number of valid cases is too small to produce a reliable estimate (i.e., fewer than

30 cases, unweighted), PowerStats produces the double dagger symbol (‡) instead of the estimate.

In addition to producing percentages or means, PowerStats users may conduct linear or logistic regressions. Many options for output of regression results are available. For a description of these options, visit the PowerStats website at <https://nces.ed.gov/datalab/index.aspx>. For more information, contact [nces.info@ed.gov](mailto:nces.info@ed.gov).

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## Appendix C—Standard Error Tables

**Table C-1. Standard errors for table 1: ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS: Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students' 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence status at any institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.36</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.93</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.95</b>
Control and level of first institution						
4-year	0.22	0.31	0.91	0.48	0.23	0.84
Public	0.34	0.50	1.34	0.72	0.35	1.18
Private nonprofit	0.33	0.51	1.39	0.51	0.32	1.22
Private for-profit	0.41	0.81	0.68	0.71	0.44	1.35
2-year	1.06	0.78	0.70	0.34	0.61	1.24
Public	0.63	0.81	0.79	0.39	0.67	1.23
Private nonprofit	9.81	10.06	4.83	†	3.35	11.31
Private for-profit	4.84	3.03	†	0.42	0.74	2.66
Less-than-2-year	3.60	†	†	0.54	2.51	3.46
Public	8.09	†	†	†	†	7.08
Private nonprofit	15.06	†	†	†	†	†
Private for-profit	4.57	†	†	†	2.39	4.26
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	2.30	3.29	5.01	3.79	3.98	7.23
Certificate	2.17	0.59	0.25	0.29	1.11	1.98
Associate's degree	0.46	0.78	0.71	0.41	0.59	1.13
Bachelor's degree	0.22	0.26	0.84	0.46	0.27	0.81
Attendance intensity through 2017						
Always full time	0.61	0.52	1.29	0.36	0.22	1.19
Mixed	0.45	0.49	0.86	0.38	0.44	0.75
Always part time	0.97	1.06	†	0.67	1.29	2.17
Number of stopouts at all institutions through 2017						
None	0.34	0.45	1.25	0.25	0.17	1.13
One	0.90	0.85	0.83	0.64	0.79	1.26
Two	1.35	0.85	0.56	1.40	1.59	2.32
Three or more	3.37	2.32	†	3.10	4.08	4.62
Sex						
Male	0.47	0.59	1.22	0.44	0.43	1.23
Female	0.51	0.42	0.91	0.34	0.40	0.95
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	0.42	0.52	0.95	0.42	0.38	0.88
19 years	0.53	0.61	1.18	0.53	0.57	1.15
20–23 years	1.83	1.38	1.13	0.81	1.16	2.11
24–29 years	1.65	1.29	0.81	0.85	1.19	2.23
30 years or older	1.52	1.51	1.12	0.70	1.08	2.25
Race/ethnicity						
White	0.42	0.49	1.33	0.36	0.37	1.09
Black	1.03	0.89	1.45	0.76	0.93	1.54
Hispanic	1.26	0.81	1.06	0.91	0.84	1.53
Asian	0.98	1.58	2.41	1.51	1.24	2.21
American Indian or Alaska Native	8.89	3.05	3.45	4.18	†	6.74
Pacific Islander	†	†	7.11	†	†	8.03
Two or more races	1.22	1.71	2.43	1.15	1.10	2.64

See notes at end of table.

**Table C-1. Standard errors for table 1: ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS: Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students' 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence status at any institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12						
Dependent	0.36	0.41	0.89	0.34	0.31	0.86
Independent	0.97	0.75	0.68	0.49	0.72	1.34
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	1.31	1.31	1.22	0.98	1.14	2.04
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	1.56	1.19	0.91	0.73	1.25	2.00
Married, no dependent(s)	2.74	3.34	2.12	1.45	3.08	5.54
Married, with dependent(s)	2.28	1.75	1.48	0.80	1.40	2.87
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12						
High school diploma or less	0.65	0.64	1.00	0.48	0.62	1.46
Some postsecondary education	0.72	0.80	1.05	0.58	0.63	1.21
Bachelor's or higher degree	0.40	0.53	1.06	0.45	0.37	0.91
High school grade point average (GPA)						
Below 2.00	1.80	1.72	1.24	1.39	1.96	3.05
2.00–2.49	0.87	0.99	1.23	0.80	0.85	1.71
2.50–2.99	0.91	1.06	1.61	0.80	0.80	1.71
3.00–3.49	0.55	0.58	1.26	0.49	0.56	1.18
3.50–4.00	0.47	0.59	1.41	0.45	0.47	1.08
Highest level of education expected, 2012						
Certificate or no degree	3.53	0.86	†	0.31	1.44	2.99
Associate's degree	1.34	1.62	0.54	0.56	1.04	2.13
Bachelor's degree	0.47	0.62	1.02	0.56	0.53	1.14
Master's or higher degree	0.33	0.48	1.22	0.39	0.38	1.05

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table C-2. Standard errors for table 2: ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A PUBLIC 2-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence status at any institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>0.39</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>1.23</b>
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	2.79	4.06	6.08	†	4.70	8.57
Certificate	4.39	1.13	0.87	0.59	2.49	4.34
Associate's degree	0.55	0.85	0.83	0.39	0.71	1.25
Plan to continue to a bachelor's degree program within 5 years, 2011–12						
Yes	0.54	0.92	0.97	0.46	0.77	1.48
No	1.17	2.25	0.87	0.63	1.04	2.38
Attendance intensity through 2017						
Always full time	0.98	1.70	2.07	0.60	0.30	2.54
Mixed	0.77	1.06	0.98	0.53	0.91	1.10
Always part time	1.11	1.12	†	†	1.54	2.25
Number of stopouts at all institutions through 2017						
None	0.55	1.05	1.20	0.38	0.44	1.64
One	1.08	1.52	1.03	0.91	1.45	1.97
Two	2.24	1.63	0.35	1.76	2.75	3.46
Three or more	5.31	†	†	4.55	6.72	6.83
Sex						
Male	0.75	1.16	0.96	0.55	0.91	1.74
Female	0.87	0.95	1.02	0.51	0.97	1.49
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	0.82	1.32	1.22	0.57	0.95	1.75
19 years	1.14	1.28	1.35	0.91	1.19	1.87
20–23 years	1.60	1.98	1.50	0.99	2.06	2.72
24–29 years	1.47	1.99	1.36	1.00	2.07	3.33
30 years or older	1.76	2.27	1.60	0.98	2.17	3.21
Race/ethnicity						
White	0.79	1.14	1.15	0.53	0.88	1.64
Black	1.29	1.95	1.39	1.19	2.04	2.52
Hispanic	1.33	1.31	1.00	1.06	1.57	2.19
Asian	2.68	4.61	3.43	3.03	3.27	4.82
American Indian or Alaska Native	5.99	5.06	†	†	†	11.18
Pacific Islander	†	†	†	†	†	†
Two or more races	2.43	4.19	4.05	1.49	2.82	5.29

See notes at end of table.

**Table C-2. Standard errors for table 2: ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A PUBLIC 2-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence status at any institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12						
Dependent	0.71	0.99	0.93	0.47	0.72	1.40
Independent	0.89	1.18	0.96	0.62	1.32	1.73
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	1.62	2.20	1.54	1.18	1.95	2.75
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	1.21	1.56	1.41	0.74	2.05	2.63
Married, no dependent(s)	3.32	4.86	†	†	5.02	7.38
Married, with dependent(s)	1.81	2.34	2.50	1.35	2.55	4.09
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12						
High school diploma or less	0.86	1.12	0.88	0.48	1.14	1.81
Some postsecondary education	1.06	1.34	1.19	0.85	1.16	1.86
Bachelor's or higher degree	0.89	1.51	1.56	1.06	1.21	2.13
High school grade point average (GPA)						
Below 2.00	1.52	2.53	1.56	2.03	2.93	4.00
2.00–2.49	1.30	1.56	1.35	0.92	1.46	2.21
2.50–2.99	1.27	1.97	1.63	1.21	1.29	2.58
3.00–3.49	0.91	1.39	1.28	0.65	1.24	1.94
3.50–4.00	1.41	1.93	2.11	0.92	1.48	2.62
Highest level of education expected, 2012						
Certificate or no degree	6.06	3.10	†	0.32	0.91	6.21
Associate's degree	1.15	2.01	0.76	0.40	1.47	2.33
Bachelor's degree	0.87	1.15	0.98	0.81	0.98	1.87
Master's or higher degree	0.86	1.24	1.58	0.74	1.07	1.76

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table C-3. Standard errors for table 3: ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A 4-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence status at any institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.31</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>0.48</b>	<b>0.23</b>	<b>0.84</b>
Control and doctorate-granting status of first institution						
Public non-doctorate-granting	0.74	1.16	2.25	1.62	0.52	2.31
Public doctorate-granting	0.34	0.42	1.11	0.61	0.43	0.86
Private nonprofit non-doctorate-granting	0.70	0.97	2.67	0.86	0.53	2.49
Private nonprofit doctorate-granting	0.26	0.43	1.15	0.61	0.41	0.95
Private for-profit	0.41	0.81	0.68	0.71	0.44	1.35
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	†	†	9.27	†	†	14.07
Certificate	6.17	†	†	2.76	1.19	6.35
Associate's degree	0.47	1.72	1.29	1.57	0.63	1.97
Bachelor's degree	0.23	0.26	0.84	0.46	0.27	0.82
Attendance intensity through 2017						
Always full time	0.27	0.38	1.18	0.49	0.23	1.08
Mixed	0.32	0.45	1.07	0.59	0.35	0.86
Always part time	0.57	2.86	†	4.11	†	4.98
Number of stopouts at all institutions through 2017						
None	0.15	0.28	0.91	0.35	0.10	0.81
One	0.64	0.93	1.53	1.12	0.73	1.78
Two	1.40	1.28	1.34	2.55	2.23	2.97
Three or more	3.46	5.35	†	5.57	4.45	6.88
Sex						
Male	0.22	0.50	1.21	0.71	0.35	1.19
Female	0.33	0.39	1.02	0.55	0.32	0.92
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	0.30	0.41	0.91	0.63	0.32	0.71
19 years	0.29	0.52	1.39	0.71	0.43	1.36
20–23 years	1.28	1.71	2.90	1.93	1.23	3.62
24–29 years	0.86	1.82	1.72	2.20	0.46	3.06
30 years or older	1.23	2.65	2.38	1.62	0.39	3.19
Race/ethnicity						
White	0.23	0.43	1.21	0.54	0.25	0.98
Black	0.87	0.84	2.12	1.14	1.09	1.86
Hispanic	0.62	0.91	1.97	1.78	0.68	1.67
Asian	†	0.97	2.42	1.72	0.61	1.99
American Indian or Alaska Native	†	4.27	6.07	3.53	†	7.14
Pacific Islander	†	†	12.49	†	†	12.14
Two or more races	0.81	1.50	3.13	1.69	0.77	2.86

See notes at end of table.

**Table C-3. Standard errors for table 3: ATTAINMENT AND PERSISTENCE RATES AT ANY INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A 4-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and persistence status at any institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Persistence: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at 4-year institution	Enrolled at less-than- 4-year institution	Not enrolled
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12						
Dependent	0.23	0.32	0.81	0.50	0.26	0.74
Independent	0.61	1.13	1.58	1.20	0.42	1.86
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	0.68	1.31	2.81	2.18	0.47	3.25
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	0.97	1.28	2.18	1.95	0.96	2.83
Married, no dependent(s)	3.17	4.68	6.57	3.88	†	6.87
Married, with dependent(s)	2.13	4.21	2.33	1.53	†	4.12
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12						
High school diploma or less	0.47	0.66	1.74	1.01	0.63	1.84
Some postsecondary education	0.54	0.84	1.37	0.91	0.61	1.29
Bachelor's or higher degree	0.22	0.37	1.01	0.50	0.24	0.88
High school grade point average (GPA)						
Below 2.00	1.05	2.63	2.80	1.72	2.37	4.72
2.00–2.49	0.66	0.99	2.41	1.72	1.13	2.79
2.50–2.99	0.60	1.07	2.23	1.42	0.73	2.28
3.00–3.49	0.38	0.51	1.34	0.73	0.32	1.05
3.50–4.00	0.27	0.29	1.17	0.57	0.41	0.99
Highest level of education expected, 2012						
Certificate or no degree	10.24	†	†	5.22	†	9.38
Associate's degree	1.00	3.34	1.09	2.79	0.71	4.19
Bachelor's degree	0.37	0.61	1.21	0.88	0.38	1.16
Master's or higher degree	0.27	0.34	1.19	0.47	0.31	1.06

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table C-4. Standard errors for table 4: ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS: Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students' 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention status at first institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>0.51</b>	<b>0.75</b>
Control and level of first institution						
4-year	0.10	0.33	0.96	0.32	0.61	0.64
Public	0.10	0.51	1.37	0.50	0.84	0.93
Private nonprofit	†	0.44	1.39	0.31	1.18	0.75
Private for-profit	0.27	0.78	0.65	0.62	0.87	1.46
2-year	0.80	0.90	0.03	0.50	0.82	1.12
Public	0.47	0.96	0.04	0.55	0.88	1.18
Private nonprofit	†	8.79	†	3.17	8.97	9.53
Private for-profit	3.36	2.68	†	0.84	1.78	1.87
Less-than-2-year	4.41	†	†	†	2.89	3.45
Public	11.35	†	†	†	†	7.35
Private nonprofit	†	†	†	†	†	†
Private for-profit	5.17	†	†	†	3.20	3.70
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	†	2.87	0.86	4.67	6.64	7.56
Certificate	2.19	0.41	†	1.29	1.39	1.70
Associate's degree	0.23	0.90	0.10	0.51	0.82	0.99
Bachelor's degree	0.06	0.21	0.93	0.26	0.69	0.61
Attendance intensity through 2017						
Always full time	0.61	0.59	1.18	0.25	0.79	1.03
Mixed	0.33	0.47	0.79	0.39	0.68	0.57
Always part time	0.92	1.05	†	1.42	1.04	2.35
Number of stopouts at first institution through 2017						
None	0.33	0.45	1.06	0.14	0.60	0.87
One	1.02	0.87	0.75	1.08	0.93	1.36
Two or more	1.53	1.36	0.72	2.53	1.98	2.83
Sex						
Male	0.39	0.59	1.08	0.40	0.78	1.07
Female	0.41	0.40	0.85	0.39	0.68	0.73
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	0.27	0.56	0.94	0.40	0.73	0.79
19 years	0.45	0.59	1.00	0.50	1.01	0.96
20–23 years	1.54	1.33	0.85	0.95	1.87	1.71
24–29 years	1.34	1.19	0.52	1.11	1.74	2.45
30 years or older	1.48	1.49	0.68	1.23	1.53	2.20
Race/ethnicity						
White	0.39	0.48	1.19	0.33	0.73	0.91
Black	0.56	0.84	1.16	0.85	1.39	1.38
Hispanic	0.84	0.88	0.79	0.78	1.11	1.35
Asian	0.55	1.28	2.33	1.47	2.04	2.12
American Indian or Alaska Native	†	2.51	2.95	3.53	6.27	5.76
Pacific Islander	†	†	4.97	†	7.04	7.69
Two or more races	0.73	1.98	2.26	1.22	1.99	2.51

See notes at end of table.



**Table C-4. Standard errors for table 4: ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS: Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students' 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention status at first institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12						
Dependent	0.26	0.42	0.83	0.30	0.55	0.71
Independent	0.81	0.70	0.49	0.66	1.08	1.16
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	1.06	1.08	0.98	1.07	1.99	1.90
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	1.47	1.12	0.74	1.17	1.51	1.88
Married, no dependent(s)	2.34	3.19	1.86	1.67	4.17	5.48
Married, with dependent(s)	2.22	1.98	0.46	1.96	2.31	2.98
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12						
High school diploma or less	0.51	0.73	0.80	0.57	0.84	1.27
Some postsecondary education	0.58	0.68	0.85	0.55	0.97	0.99
Bachelor's or higher degree	0.34	0.61	1.17	0.36	0.81	0.74
High school grade point average (GPA)						
Below 2.00	1.63	1.54	0.69	1.50	2.69	3.11
2.00–2.49	0.72	1.02	0.89	0.90	1.25	1.47
2.50–2.99	0.77	1.00	1.34	0.83	1.51	1.59
3.00–3.49	0.39	0.64	1.12	0.50	0.89	1.04
3.50–4.00	0.42	0.64	1.45	0.50	0.97	0.97
Highest level of education expected, 2012						
Certificate or no degree	3.63	0.49	†	1.86	1.98	2.72
Associate's degree	1.22	1.52	0.09	0.88	1.23	2.09
Bachelor's degree	0.30	0.66	0.91	0.49	0.88	1.02
Master's or higher degree	0.24	0.48	1.10	0.35	0.73	0.82

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table C-5. Standard errors for table 5: ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A PUBLIC 2-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention status at first institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>1.18</b>
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	†	3.50	†	4.82	7.77	8.79
Certificate	4.27	1.05	†	2.74	2.23	4.09
Associate's degree	0.28	1.00	0.04	0.59	0.90	1.16
Plan to continue to a bachelor's degree program within 5 years, 2011–12						
Yes	0.29	1.15	0.05	0.65	1.04	1.34
No	0.75	2.07	†	0.77	1.69	2.38
Attendance intensity through 2017						
Always full time	0.92	2.25	†	0.14	2.15	2.57
Mixed	0.51	1.15	0.05	0.75	1.05	1.09
Always part time	1.05	1.10	†	1.48	1.26	2.51
Number of stopouts at first institution through 2017						
None	0.50	1.16	0.05	0.24	1.13	1.36
One	0.98	1.61	†	1.53	1.60	2.19
Two or more	2.35	1.79	†	4.33	2.66	4.46
Sex						
Male	0.47	1.25	†	0.85	1.35	1.63
Female	0.67	1.06	0.08	0.83	1.13	1.42
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	0.47	1.52	0.10	0.89	1.38	1.71
19 years	0.84	1.32	†	1.16	1.61	1.67
20–23 years	1.32	2.09	†	1.58	2.68	2.61
24–29 years	1.37	1.94	†	1.87	2.69	3.65
30 years or older	1.76	2.28	†	1.75	2.26	3.24
Race/ethnicity						
White	0.71	1.34	0.08	0.69	1.22	1.55
Black	0.90	1.88	†	1.63	2.55	2.38
Hispanic	0.91	1.38	†	1.34	1.73	2.21
Asian	1.48	3.82	†	3.57	4.34	4.54
American Indian or Alaska Native	†	†	†	†	10.23	10.27
Pacific Islander	†	†	†	†	†	†
Two or more races	0.44	4.46	†	2.94	4.17	5.43

See notes at end of table.

**Table C-5. Standard errors for table 5: ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A PUBLIC 2-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention status at first institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12						
Dependent	0.50	1.09	0.05	0.65	1.00	1.30
Independent	0.83	1.13	†	0.94	1.51	1.75
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	1.38	1.92	†	1.84	2.72	2.86
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	1.05	1.94	†	2.00	2.25	2.59
Married, no dependent(s)	2.93	4.78	†	†	6.56	7.67
Married, with dependent(s)	1.74	2.83	†	2.49	3.62	4.56
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12						
High school diploma or less	0.73	1.34	0.08	0.99	1.36	1.84
Some postsecondary education	0.70	1.36	†	0.95	1.51	1.78
Bachelor's or higher degree	0.81	1.73	0.07	1.00	1.79	2.01
High school grade point average (GPA)						
Below 2.00	0.64	2.21	†	2.30	3.76	3.74
2.00–2.49	0.76	1.59	†	1.41	1.78	2.05
2.50–2.99	0.75	2.01	†	1.23	2.32	2.71
3.00–3.49	0.75	1.88	†	1.10	1.62	1.97
3.50–4.00	1.25	1.98	0.22	1.49	2.22	2.73
Highest level of education expected, 2012						
Certificate or no degree	6.02	1.52	†	0.86	4.26	6.24
Associate's degree	0.83	1.83	†	1.14	1.58	2.39
Bachelor's degree	0.59	1.33	0.04	0.92	1.52	1.75
Master's or higher degree	0.61	1.46	0.10	0.92	1.59	1.64

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table C-6. Standard errors for table 6: ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A 4-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention status at first institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.96</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.64</b>
Control and doctorate-granting status of first institution						
Public non-doctorate-granting	0.26	1.33	2.15	1.16	1.68	1.96
Public doctorate-granting	0.06	0.21	1.17	0.41	0.98	0.63
Private nonprofit non-doctorate- granting	†	0.95	2.78	0.42	2.30	1.51
Private nonprofit doctorate- granting	†	0.22	1.24	0.47	1.03	0.70
Private for-profit	0.27	0.78	0.65	0.62	0.87	1.46
Degree program, 2011–12						
No certificate or degree	†	†	6.10	†	12.22	†
Certificate	6.03	†	†	1.20	4.84	6.38
Associate's degree	0.23	1.72	0.65	1.55	1.57	1.95
Bachelor's degree	0.06	0.21	0.92	0.26	0.68	0.60
Attendance intensity through 2017						
Always full time	0.16	0.35	1.23	0.34	0.87	0.91
Mixed	0.10	0.47	1.10	0.39	0.81	0.66
Always part time	0.55	2.86	†	4.06	1.87	4.96
Number of stopouts at first institution through 2017						
None	0.09	0.30	1.00	0.18	0.69	0.62
One	0.40	1.04	1.80	1.32	1.50	1.75
Two or more	†	2.63	2.14	3.76	4.18	4.06
Sex						
Male	0.10	0.46	1.21	0.48	0.92	1.00
Female	0.13	0.40	1.12	0.38	0.84	0.62
Age as of December 31, 2011						
18 years or younger	0.06	0.44	1.02	0.41	0.82	0.54
19 years	0.11	0.39	1.36	0.49	1.31	1.08
20–23 years	†	1.65	2.73	1.25	3.29	3.04
24–29 years	0.68	1.69	1.68	1.59	2.98	4.22
30 years or older	0.94	2.66	2.19	0.95	2.50	3.01
Race/ethnicity						
White	0.14	0.50	1.23	0.34	0.86	0.73
Black	0.20	0.77	1.96	0.78	1.81	1.65
Hispanic	0.17	1.36	2.00	1.36	1.57	1.54
Asian	†	1.01	2.34	1.23	1.99	1.97
American Indian or Alaska Native	†	†	5.94	†	7.14	7.80
Pacific Islander	†	†	9.87	†	9.91	11.23
Two or more races	†	1.33	3.00	1.39	2.24	2.77

See notes at end of table.

**Table C-6. Standard errors for table 6: ATTAINMENT AND RETENTION RATES AT FIRST INSTITUTION AMONG FIRST-TIME POSTSECONDARY STUDENTS BEGINNING AT A 4-YEAR INSTITUTION: Percentage distribution of 6-year undergraduate attainment and retention status at first institution among 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution, by selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	Attainment: Highest undergraduate credential attained at any institution by spring 2017			Retention: No credential attained at any institution by spring 2017		
	Certificate	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Enrolled at first institution	Left first institution, but enrolled at another institution	Left first institution, and never enrolled at another institution
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12						
Dependent	0.07	0.34	0.89	0.35	0.64	0.53
Independent	0.43	1.06	1.49	0.75	1.73	1.89
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	0.38	1.13	2.76	1.05	3.24	3.42
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	0.49	1.18	2.19	1.29	2.54	2.83
Married, no dependent(s)	0.65	4.50	6.36	3.16	5.15	6.66
Married, with dependent(s)	†	4.26	1.72	1.55	2.89	3.84
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12						
High school diploma or less	0.25	0.56	1.62	0.67	1.23	1.64
Some postsecondary education	0.20	0.81	1.43	0.76	1.22	1.08
Bachelor's or higher degree	0.06	0.39	1.12	0.32	0.92	0.59
High school grade point average (GPA)						
Below 2.00	0.09	2.43	2.44	1.34	3.87	5.21
2.00–2.49	0.23	0.84	2.27	1.47	2.26	2.39
2.50–2.99	0.24	0.92	2.18	1.13	2.19	1.73
3.00–3.49	0.10	0.50	1.28	0.43	1.05	0.92
3.50–4.00	†	0.37	1.33	0.37	1.03	0.75
Highest level of education expected, 2012						
Certificate or no degree	9.37	†	†	†	9.90	5.11
Associate's degree	0.63	3.39	0.56	2.31	2.36	4.39
Bachelor's degree	0.14	0.67	1.31	0.54	1.09	0.97
Master's or higher degree	0.10	0.33	1.15	0.35	0.77	0.75

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).

**Table C-7. Standard errors for table B-5: Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students, by control and level of first institution and selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17**

Selected enrollment and student characteristics	All first-time postsecondary students	First-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution	First-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution
Total	†	†	†
Control, level, and doctorate-granting status of first institution			
4-year	0.93	†	†
Public	0.94	†	0.87
Non-doctorate-granting	0.42	†	0.85
Doctorate-granting	1.00	†	1.32
Private nonprofit	0.32	†	0.79
Non-doctorate-granting	0.22	†	0.48
Doctorate-granting	0.25	†	0.54
Private for-profit	0.17	†	0.32
2-year	1.12	†	†
Public	1.17	†	†
Private nonprofit	0.12	†	†
Private for-profit	0.55	†	†
Less-than-2-year	0.48	†	†
Public	0.11	†	†
Private nonprofit	0.06	†	†
Private for-profit	0.45	†	†
Degree program, 2011–12			
No certificate or degree	0.19	0.46	0.11
Certificate	0.38	0.67	0.17
Associate's degree	1.08	0.82	0.73
Bachelor's degree	1.03	†	0.81
Plan to continue to a bachelor's degree program within 5 years, 2011–12			
Yes	0.91	1.10	0.63
No	0.46	0.87	0.23
Missing	1.12	0.69	0.75
Attendance intensity through 2017			
Always full time	0.55	0.75	0.69
Mixed	0.63	1.23	0.73
Always part time	0.62	1.08	0.33
Number of stopouts at first institution through 2017			
None	0.64	1.03	0.67
One	0.53	0.88	0.52
Two or more	0.31	0.64	0.35
Number of stopouts at all institutions through 2017			
None	0.67	1.03	0.79
One	0.60	0.98	0.70
Two	0.37	0.74	0.38
Three or more	0.15	0.32	0.20
Sex			
Male	0.60	1.10	0.69
Female	0.60	1.10	0.69
Age as of December 31, 2011			
18 years or younger	0.82	1.28	0.80
19 years	0.54	1.01	0.57
20–23 years	0.51	0.89	0.47
24–29 years	0.33	0.61	0.30
30 years or older	0.39	0.64	0.31

See notes at end of table.

**Table C-7. Standard errors for table B-5: Percentage distribution of 2011–12 first-time postsecondary students, by control and level of first institution and selected enrollment and student characteristics: 2012–17—Continued**

<b>Selected enrollment and student characteristics</b>	<b>All first-time postsecondary students</b>	<b>First-time postsecondary students beginning at a public 2-year institution</b>	<b>First-time postsecondary students beginning at a 4-year institution</b>
Race/ethnicity			
White	0.72	1.09	0.91
Black	0.51	0.73	0.67
Hispanic	0.56	0.93	0.63
Asian	0.24	0.38	0.38
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.16	0.25	0.13
Pacific Islander	0.06	0.13	0.07
Two or more races	0.19	0.31	0.24
Dependency status and family responsibilities, 2011–12			
Dependent	0.82	1.31	0.73
Independent	0.82	1.31	0.73
Unmarried, no dependent(s)	0.44	0.77	0.43
Unmarried, with dependent(s)	0.34	0.59	0.36
Married, no dependent(s)	0.21	0.45	0.13
Married, with dependent(s)	0.27	0.52	0.17
Highest education attained by either parent, 2011–12			
High school diploma or less	0.72	1.04	0.66
Some postsecondary education	0.48	0.95	0.59
Bachelor's or higher degree	0.68	0.92	0.79
Both parents' highest educational attainment is unknown	0.27	0.48	0.21
High school grade point average (GPA)			
Below 2.00	0.24	0.52	0.21
2.00–2.49	0.39	0.85	0.44
2.50–2.99	0.33	0.54	0.48
3.00–3.49	0.55	1.02	0.61
3.50–4.00	0.46	0.80	0.68
Missing	0.39	0.64	0.31
Highest level of education expected, 2012			
Certificate or no degree	0.29	0.50	0.09
Associate's degree	0.45	0.79	0.27
Bachelor's degree	0.58	1.03	0.76
Master's or higher degree	0.66	1.02	0.77

† Not applicable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2012/17 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study (BPS:12/17).