



NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE®
RESEARCH CENTER™

**How many students graduate from
college in your state?**

A State-Level View of Student
Attainment Rates

**RESEARCH
services**

February, 2015

Afet Dunder, PhD
Associate Director



Completing College: Fall 2008

- The state supplement focuses on first-time degree-seeking students who entered colleges and universities in fall 2008, following them through May 31, 2014.
- Student outcomes
 - include degree/certificate completion and continuing enrollment.
 - are reported by enrollment intensity (full-time, part-time or mixed), by age at first entry to college, and by gender.



Definitions in State-Level Analysis

- State of the institution of attendance
- Students who started in multi-state institutions are excluded
- Completions at multi-state institutions are included
- State-by-state results for students who started at four-year public, two-year public, and four-year private nonprofit institutions
 - under each of these categories only those states for which the historical data coverage for the cohort was 65 percent or higher.



Completion Rate for Students Who Started at Four-Year Public Institutions

State	Total Completion Rate	Completion at Starting Institution	Completion at Different Institution
Connecticut	71.57	58.78	12.79
Illinois	73.20	57.99	15.21
Iowa	79.56	66.39	13.17
Michigan	70.40	60.51	9.88
Minnesota	71.67	46.76	24.91
New Hampshire	78.17	64.84	13.33
New Jersey	73.30	60.77	12.53
North Carolina	70.80	59.89	10.91
Pennsylvania	71.25	59.74	11.51
South Carolina	71.86	57.35	14.52
Vermont	75.25	61.98	13.28
Virginia	77.46	67.13	10.33



Completion Rate for Students Who Started at Four-Year Public Institutions (continued)

State	Completion at Starting Institution	Completion at Different Institution	Not Enrolled
Kentucky	44.72	13.17	27.43
Louisiana	41.58	14.42	26.67
Maine	38.26	17.17	30.46
Minnesota	46.76	24.91	16.06
Missouri	39.24	23.93	20.42
West Virginia	39.76	14.47	30.91



Mixed Enrollment Students at Four-Year Public Institutions

State	Total Completion Rate	Completion at Different Institution	Completion at Different Institution/ Total Completion
Connecticut	51.13	18.29	36%
Maryland	45.33	18.95	42%
Nebraska	50.64	22.91	45%
New Hampshire	54.44	23.18	43%
South Carolina	49.22	20.37	41%
West Virginia	40.53	17.85	44%



Comparison of Completions Elsewhere at Four-Year Public and Private Nonprofit Institutions

State	Public Total	Public Elsewhere	Private Nonprofit Total	Private Nonprofit Elsewhere
Georgia	61.74	14.30	69.41	13.09
Iowa	79.56	13.17	73.36	15.21
Missouri	63.17	23.93	61.95	16.54
Nebraska	64.61	18.62	67.71	13.62
Texas	60.56	13.01	72.51	14.21
Vermont	75.25	13.28	70.83	14.08
Virginia	77.46	10.33	66.02	12.61



Completion Rate for Students Who Started at Two-Year Public Institutions

- Not only first completion but also
 - First & subsequent completion at four-year institutions
- In many states at least a quarter of completions happened not at the starting institution
- In 16 states 1/3 of all completions happened elsewhere



Completion Rate at Four-Year Institutions for Students Who Started at Two-Year Public Institutions

State	Completion at 4 year without 2 year degree	Completion at 4 year with 2 year degree	Total Completion at 4 year
Iowa	12.84	8.11	20.95
Kansas	16.13	9.08	25.21
North Dakota	11.84	8.89	20.73
Texas	16.08	4.57	20.65
Virginia	14.02	8.73	22.75



Completion Rate at Four-Year Institutions for Students Who Started at Two-Year Public Institutions

- In 11 states (Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, etc), at least one in five women who started at two-year public institutions completed at a four-year institution.
- Only in two states (Kansas and Virginia) at least 20 percent of men who started in a two-year public institution completed at a four-year institution.



Completion Across State Lines for Students Who Started at Four-Year Public Institutions

State	Total Completion Rate	Completion at Out-of-State Institution	Completion at Out-of-State Institution/ Total Completion
Arizona	68.96	5.94	9%
Hawaii	57.95	6.91	12%
Maine	55.43	8.37	15%
Nebraska	64.61	6.07	9%
Oregon	64.98	6.67	10%



Completion Across State Lines for Students Who Started at Four-Year Institutions

- Tracking students who start in college in one state and complete in another substantially adds to the overall completion rate
- In 22 states, more than five percent of the starting cohort in four-year public institutions completed in a state different from the state of the starting institution.
- This was true for students who started in four-year private non-profit institutions in 33 states.



Completion Rate by Age

- In most states, traditional-age students starting at four-year public institutions had higher completion rates than the delayed entry (age 21-24) and adult learner (over age 24) groups.
- In six states (Arizona, California, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, New Mexico), delayed entry students had a higher completion rate than traditional-age students.



Implications

- This report continues demonstrating the value of counting student completions that happen at schools different from those where students started.
- In the majority of states, not tracking completions elsewhere would have resulted in reporting at least one-third of students who started at four-year public institutions as drop-outs.
- Most students are not exclusively full-time or part-time: they switch from full-time status to part-time and vice-versa throughout the study period. These students are also more likely to finish elsewhere.



**RESEARCH
services**

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE®
RESEARCH CENTER™

**For more
information...**

Visit
nscresearchcenter.org

Afet Dundar
dundar@studentclearinghouse.org