College Students on the Move

Not every student spends his or her college career at one school. According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 8% of the students studied* attended more than one postsecondary institution in 2010-2011.

The most mobile students were those with both full- and part-time statuses, with 17.2% of these students attending more than one institution during a single year. Students who were enrolled exclusively full-time tended to stay put the most, with only 2.8% attending more than one institution. Student mobility — attending more than one postsecondary institution concurrently or consecutively — is shown in the chart at right.

Mobility Rates by Student Enrollment Status†

- **full-time only students**: 223,780 students (2.8%)
- **part-time only students**: 374,395 students (5.2%)
- **full- & part-time students**: 1,056,880 students (17.2%)
- **all students**: 1,655,055 students (7.7%)

*Students who were enrolled at postsecondary institutions for at least 30 consecutive days between August 15, 2010 and August 14, 2011.
†Mobility is defined as attending more than one postsecondary institution concurrently or consecutively during the study period.

Note: Data for this report came from student-level college enrollment data provided to the National Student Clearinghouse by its participating institutions and reflect national coverage of 93% of student enrollments.
Student Mobility by Type of Institution

As shown in the charts at right, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center has identified the types of institutions in which mobile students enrolled during the study period.

2-/4-Year Institutions

The majority of mobile students (55.8%) attended a combination of 2- and 4-year institutions at some point during the study period. One quarter (25.3%) attended only 4-year institutions; 19% attended only 2-year or less than 2-year institutions.

Public/Private Institutions

Most students (67.9%) attended only public institutions. One quarter (24.9%) attended a combination of public and private institutions. A small percentage of students attended only private for-profit institutions (4.3%) or private not-for-profit institutions (2.8%).

Note: Data for this report came from student-level college enrollment data provided to the National Student Clearinghouse by its participating institutions and reflect national coverage of 93% of student enrollments.