

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE®

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Turning Two Into Four *Prior Attendance at a Two-Year Institution Leads to High Graduation Rates at a Four-Year Institution*

Herndon, Virginia, November 8, 2012 – According to a recent [Snapshot Report™](#) from the [National Student Clearinghouse® Research Center™](#), which examines graduation rates of transfer students, nearly 80 percent of those with an associate's degree either graduated from or remained enrolled in a four-year institution. Fully 71 percent of these transfer students earned their bachelor's degree within four years.

Snapshot Reports, which are released throughout the year, draw on college enrollment data provided to the [National Student Clearinghouse](#) by its more than 3,300 participating postsecondary institutions. The reports are unique snapshots in time that reveal emerging college enrollment patterns and student mobility pathways.

The Research Center examined the postsecondary outcomes of students who transferred from a two-year to a four-year institution in three different academic years. About 60 percent of all two- to four-year transfer students graduated with a bachelor's or higher degree within four years of transferring. This figure remained consistent for students who transferred in three different academic years (2005-06 to 2007-08.) In addition, 12 percent of all transfer students had not yet graduated, but were still enrolled at a four-year institution in the last year of analysis. In total, about 72 percent of students either graduated or remained in college.

“The Clearinghouse studies are providing the higher education community with important information on transfer students and adult learners, “ stated Doug Shapiro, Executive Research Director, Research Center. “These studies also shed light on the role of community colleges in postsecondary education. Institutions and government bodies can use this knowledge to formulate policy.”

In addition to its Snapshot Reports, the Research Center publishes a [Signature Report™](#) series that serves as a national resource for the continued study of student pathways and college enrollment patterns and has immediate relevance for institutional, state, and federal policy. The Clearinghouse will release its fourth Signature Report, focusing on college completion rates nationwide, later in 2012.

About the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center

The National Student Clearinghouse Research Center is the research arm of the National Student Clearinghouse. The Research

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Center collaborates with higher education institutions, states, school districts, high schools, and educational organizations as part of a national effort to better inform education leaders and policymakers. Through accurate longitudinal data outcomes reporting, the Research Center enables better educational policy decisions leading to improved student outcomes.

To learn more, visit <http://research.studentclearinghouse.org>.

About the National Student Clearinghouse

The National Student Clearinghouse (a nonprofit formed in 1993) is the unique and trusted source for higher education enrollment and degree verifications. The Clearinghouse serves as a single point of contact for the collection and timely exchange of accurate and comprehensive enrollment, degree, and certificate records on behalf of its more than 3,300 participating higher education institutions, which represent 96 percent of all students in public and private U.S. institutions. The Clearinghouse also provides thousands of high schools and districts with continuing collegiate enrollment, progression, and completion statistics on their alumni.

Through its verification and reporting services, the Clearinghouse saves the education community cumulatively nearly four hundred million dollars annually. Most Clearinghouse services are provided to colleges and universities at little or no charge, including enhanced transcript and research services, enabling institutions to redistribute limited staff and budget resources to more important student service efforts. Clearinghouse services are designed to facilitate an institution's compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, The Higher Education Act, and other applicable laws.

In addition, the Clearinghouse provides accurate, timely enrollment and degree verifications to student loan providers, employers, student credit issuers, the U.S. Department of Education, and others who access its registry more than half a billion times annually.

For more information, visit www.studentclearinghouse.org.

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