

NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE®

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Spring Forward: Over a Quarter of College Students Start in Spring Term

Herndon, Virginia, November 29, 2012 – According to the [latest Snapshot Report™](#) by the [National Student Clearinghouse®, Research Center™](#), over a quarter of all first-time college students enter postsecondary institutions in January or later months. The proportion of students starting college in the spring has been very consistent since 2007-08. These students are often excluded from conventional reporting, which is usually focused on the student who begins college during the fall term.

The Clearinghouse uses student-level data made available to the Clearinghouse by its more than 3,300 participating colleges and universities, including nearly 97 percent of students attending public and private nonprofit postsecondary institutions. As a result, the Clearinghouse is in a unique position to count those students previously excluded.

In addition to the ability to count spring semester enrollees, the Clearinghouse included previously “invisible” students in its fourth [Signature Report](#), a landmark study on college completion released on November 15. These “invisible” students included part-time students, mixed enrollment students (those who change their enrollment status from full time to part time or vice versa), and adult learners. Most studies do not follow these diverse educational pathways, which are being taken by more and more students. By doing so, the Signature Report provided a more complete picture of student pathways. Among its findings was that college completion exceeds 75 percent for full-time students.

“By including students who are not normally counted by conventional reporting methods, and by using student-level data, the Clearinghouse is in a better position to facilitate both accountability and improvement efforts within institutions and by policymakers,” stated Dr. Doug Shapiro, Executive Director of the Research Center.

The Clearinghouse will release state-level college completion rates in early 2013.

About the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center

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

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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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