NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE®

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6.1 Percent of Four-year Grads Continue at Community College
Recent Decrease Reported By National Student Clearinghouse Research Center

Herndon, Virginia, June 18, 2013 – The latest Snapshot Report™ from the National Student Clearinghouse® Research Center™ shows that 6.1 percent of students who received a bachelor's degree in 2009-10 went on to enroll in a two-year institution within the next two academic years. This represents a drop from the 6.5 percent of 2008-09 graduates who followed this pattern, a decrease that may be tied to improving economic conditions.

Other key findings include:

- The percentage of women enrolling in a two-year institution after receiving a bachelor's degree is 1.8 percentage points higher than that of men, a margin that has increased over the last 10 years.
- The prevalence of this enrollment pattern varies widely by bachelor's degree field of study, and is most common among fields of study associated with health care and social services.
- Over 14 percent of 2009-10 bachelor's degree recipients in biological and biomedical sciences went on to enroll in a two-year institution.
- The number of engineering majors enrolling in community colleges after receiving a bachelor's degree has declined significantly over the past decade.
- The pattern is most common among graduates of public institutions. For students graduating with bachelor's degrees in 2009-10, 6.8 percent of graduates from public institutions enrolled in two-year institutions, which is almost two percentage points higher than that of graduates from private nonprofit institutions.

"There was a lot of speculation during the Great Recession about humanities majors, who couldn't find jobs with their bachelors' degrees, flocking to community colleges to learn computer networking," stated Dr. Doug Shapiro, Executive Director of the Research Center. "Our student-level data shows that the reality was a slight uptick in some fields, layered on top of longer-term trends. As we pull out of the recession, the numbers are starting to trend back down."

Snapshot Reports, which are released throughout the year, draw on college enrollment data provided to the National Student Clearinghouse by its more than 3,400 participating postsecondary institutions enrolling over 96% percent of students attending public and private nonprofit postsecondary institutions.

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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.

About the National Student Clearinghouse

The National Student Clearinghouse (a nonprofit formed in 1993) is the trusted source for and leading provider of higher education verifications and electronic education record exchanges, handling more than 700 million verification requests and 200 million education record exchanges annually. 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 3,400 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, electronic exchange, 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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