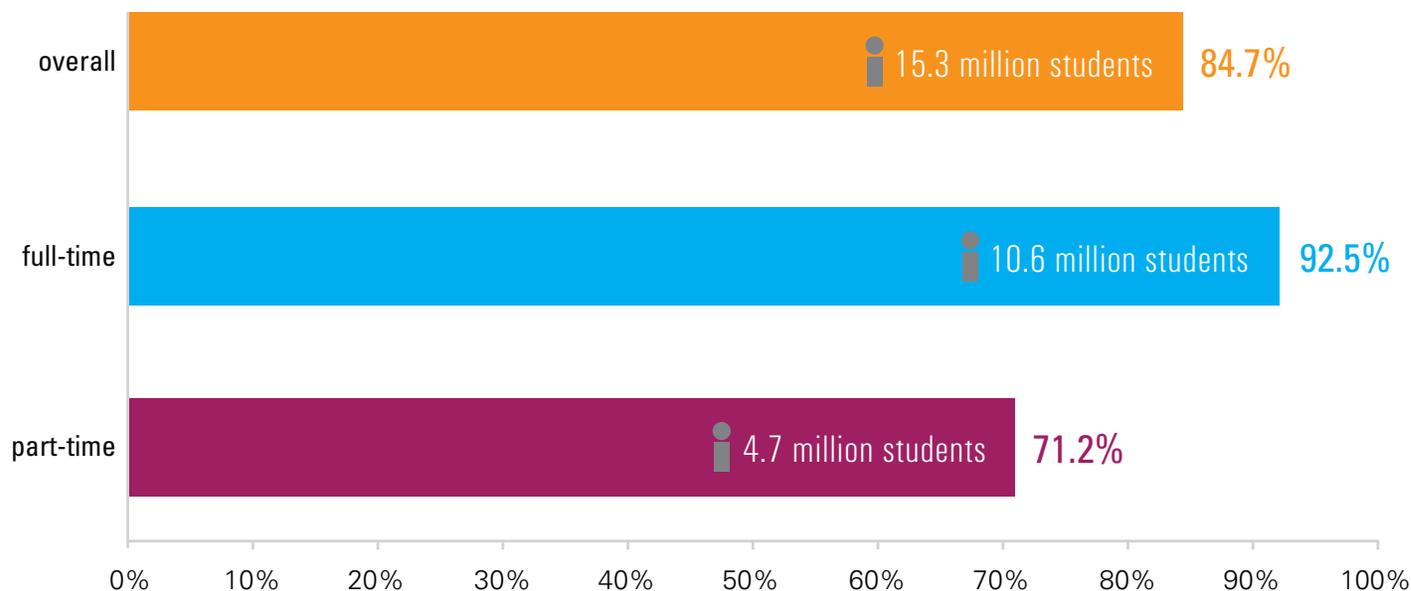


The Persistence of College Students

Today's college student is not your '60s drop-out. In 2010, college students tended to stay enrolled (i.e., persist), even if it was in a different school, according to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center. For a student enrolled in the fall, persistence is defined as either continued enrollment during the next term after the fall or degree completion, even if either occurs at a different U.S. higher education institution. Students who do not stay in school following their fall enrollment are often misclassified as drop-outs when they may have just transferred and persisted at another college or university. The chart at right shows the proportions of college students staying in school.

With data current through August 2011

Percentage of College Students Staying in School*



*Subsequent enrollment (or persistence) of postsecondary students who were enrolled on October 15, 2010. Students were counted as having persisted if they: 1) remained enrolled in any postsecondary institution 60 days after the end of the term that included October 15, 2010 or 2) completed a degree within 60 days of the end of the term that included October 15, 2010.

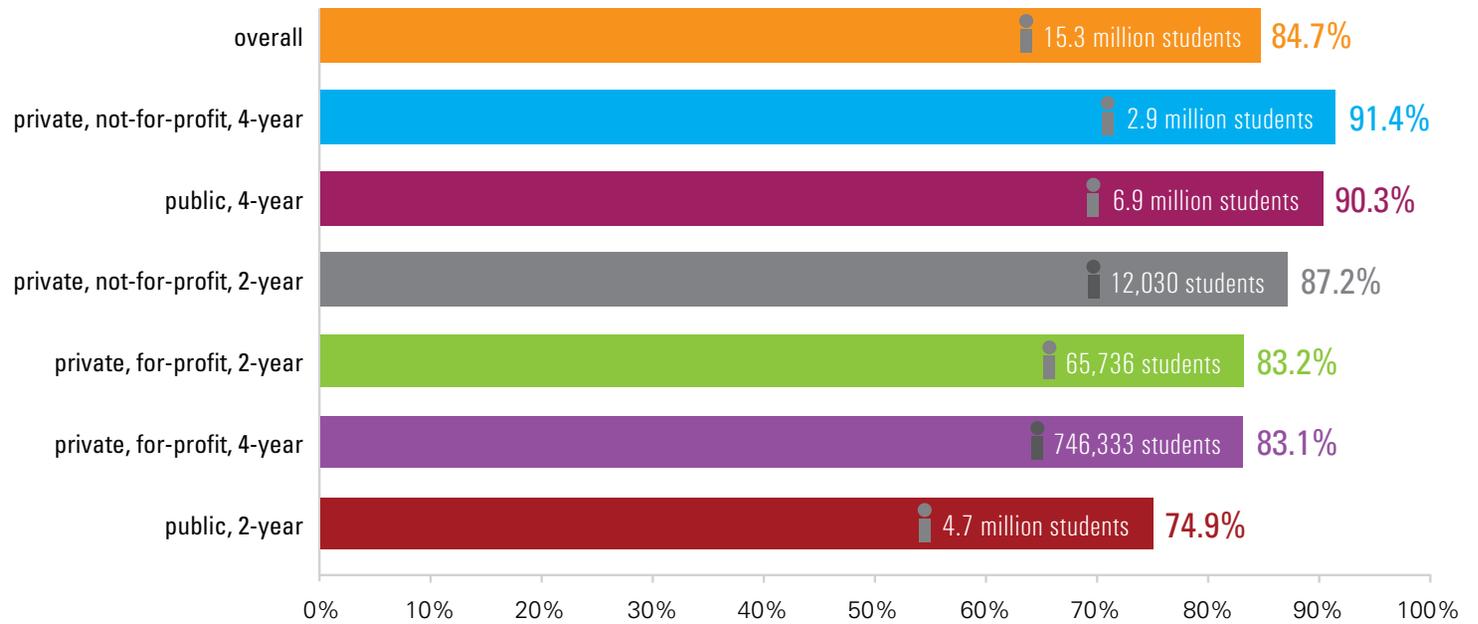
Note: Data for this report came from student-level college enrollment data provided to the National Student Clearinghouse by its participating institutions and reflect national coverage of 93% of student enrollments.

Persistence by Type of Institution

When it comes to getting an education, today's college student has a lot of options. As shown in the chart at right, the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center has identified the persistence rates for students, depending on what type of institution they were enrolled in during Fall 2010. Different types of institutions have different mixes of full- and part-time students, which may affect the rates of persistence.

With data current through August 2011

How Persistence Varied by Type of Institution*



*Subsequent enrollment (or persistence) by type of institution for postsecondary students who were enrolled on October 15, 2010. Students were counted as having persisted if they: 1) remained enrolled in any postsecondary institution 60 days after the end of the term that included October 15, 2010 or 2) completed a degree within 60 days of the end of the term that included October 15, 2010.

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.