

The Role of Two-Year Public Institutions in Bachelor's Attainment

In the 2015-16 academic year, 49 percent of all students who completed a bachelor's degree at a four-year institution had been enrolled at a two-year public institution at some point in the previous 10 years.

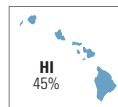
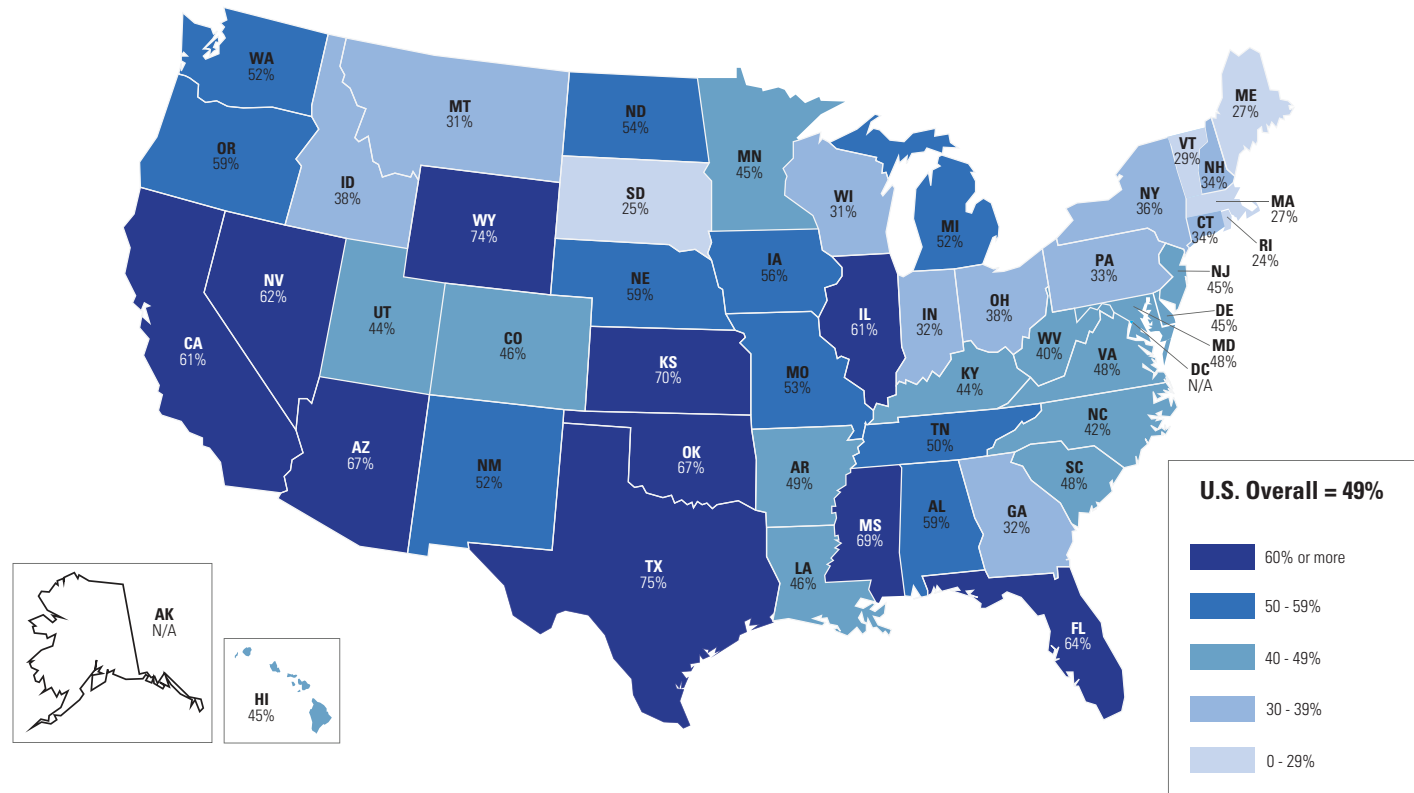
The prior enrollment at a two-year public institution may have been brief, for as little as a single course, and the two-year institution may or may not have been the first institution the student attended. As shown on the third page of this snapshot, 22 percent were enrolled in two-year public institutions for only one term.

In 20 states, more than half of the 2015-16 bachelor's degree earners at four-year institutions had been enrolled at a two-year public institution in the previous ten years. A state-level data table in Excel format is available for download at <https://nscresearchcenter.org/snapshotreport-twoyearcontributionfouryearcompletions26>.

Contribution of Two-Year Public Institutions to Bachelor's Completions at Four-Year Institutions

With data current through August 2016

Percentage of 2015-16 Bachelor's Degree Earners with Previous Enrollments at Two-Year Public Institutions



The states in the map represent the states in which bachelor's degrees were awarded. In this analysis, baccalaureate-granting institutions that predominantly award associate degrees (at least 55 percent of the undergraduate degrees awarded are associate degrees) are classified as two-year institutions. As such, enrollments at these institutions count in the numerator, but bachelor's degrees awarded by them do not count in the denominator. Alaska and D.C. are labeled N/A on this map because the two-year public institutions in those two areas report data to the Clearinghouse under the same institutional profile as four-year public institutions.

Contribution of Two-Year Public Institutions
to Bachelor's Completions at Four-Year Institutions

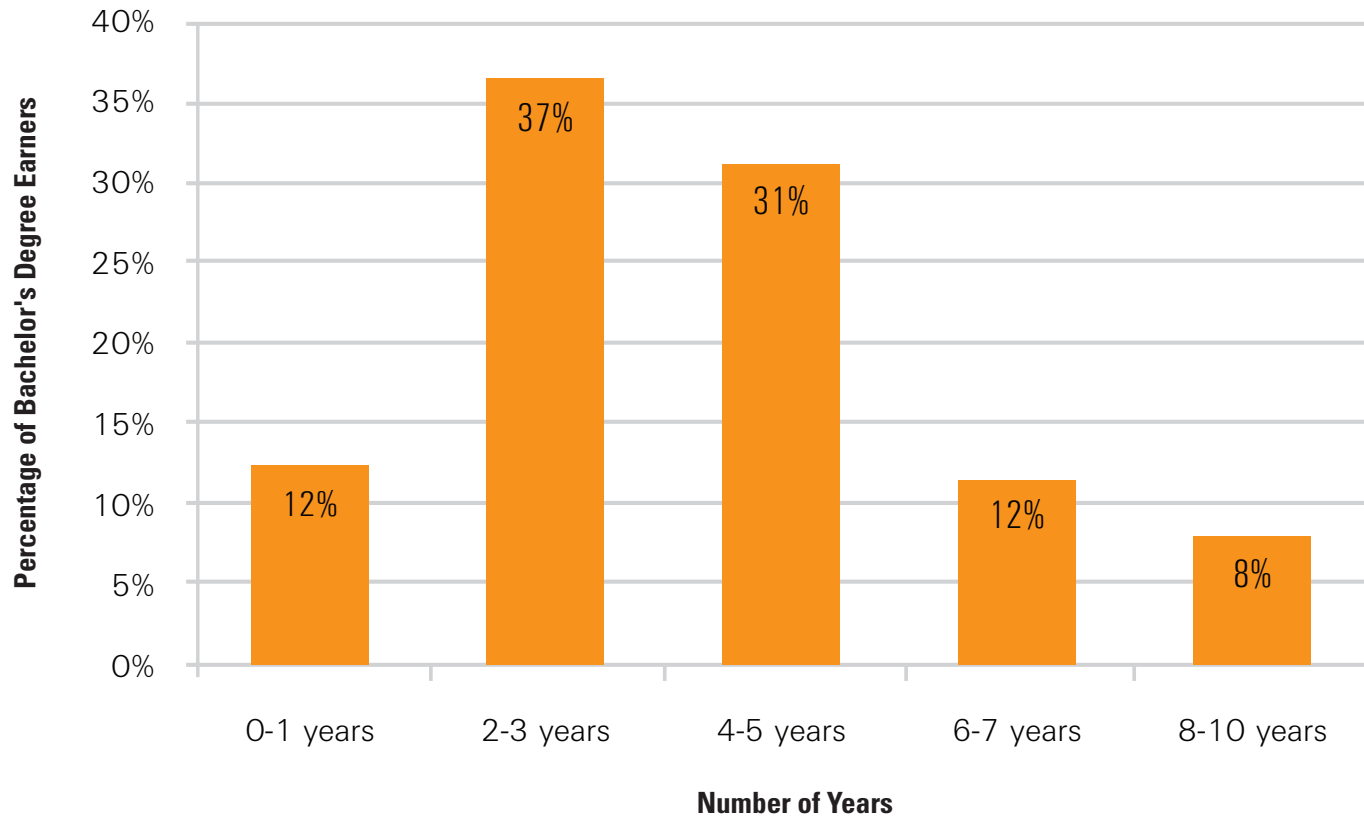
Recency of
Two-Year Public
Enrollment

Forty-nine percent of all 2015-16 bachelor's degree earners at four-year institutions had been enrolled at a two-year public institution at some point in the previous 10 years.

About half of these students (49 percent) earned their bachelor's degree within three years of having been enrolled at a two-year public institution.

With data current through August 2016

Number of Years Between Bachelor's Completion at Four-Year Institution and Most Recent Prior Enrollment at Two-Year Public Institution



Contribution of Two-Year Public Institutions
to Bachelor's Completions at Four-Year Institutions

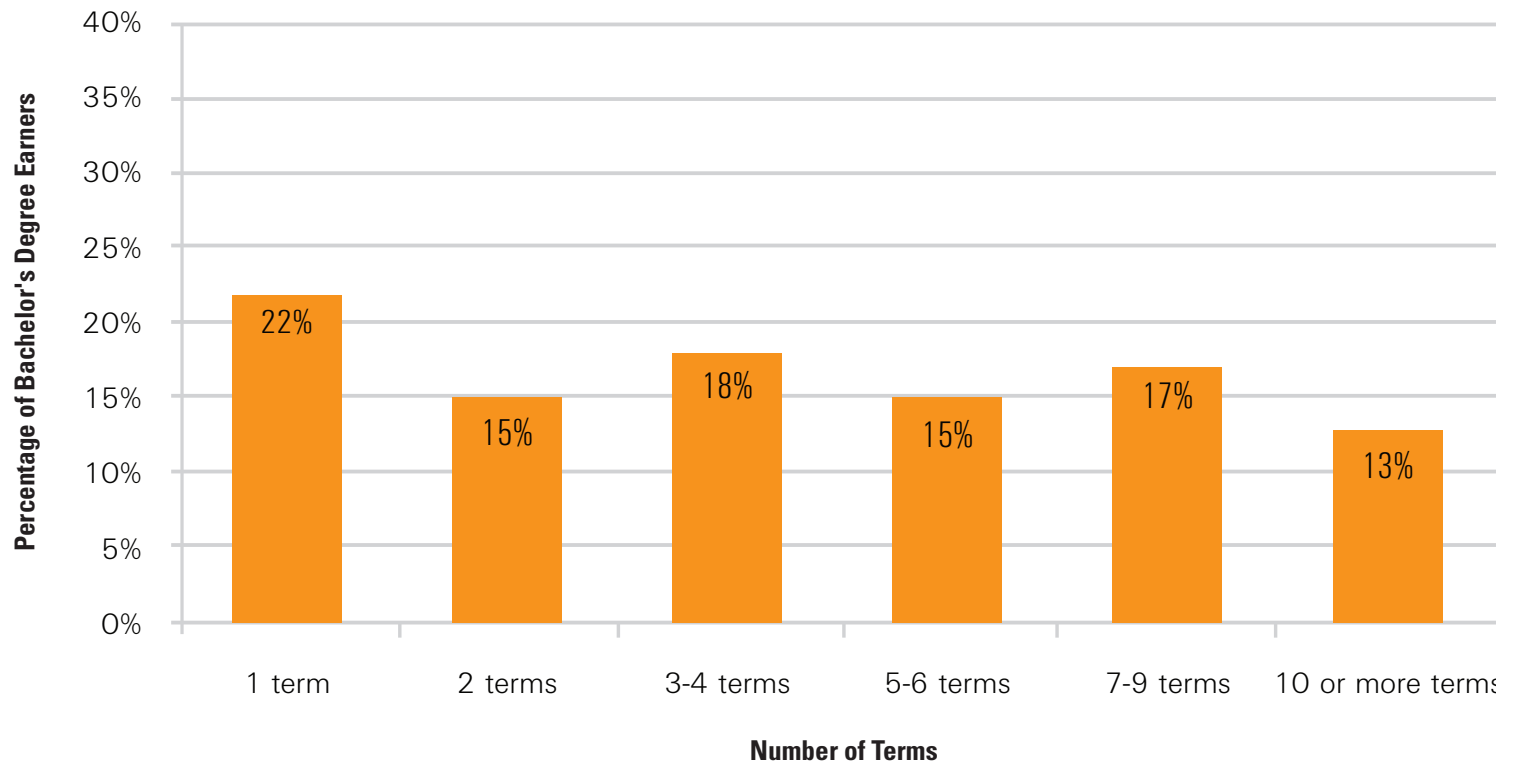
Duration of
Two-Year Public
Enrollment

Forty-nine percent of all 2015-16 bachelor's degree earners at four-year institutions had been enrolled at a two-year public institution at some point in the previous 10 years.

Almost two-thirds of these students (63 percent) were enrolled in two-year public institutions for three or more terms.

With data current through August 2016

Number of Enrolled Terms at Two-Year Public Institutions
Prior to Bachelor's Degree Completion at Four-Year Institution



Terms in this analysis are institutionally-defined, so term length varies. The average term length was 103 days.