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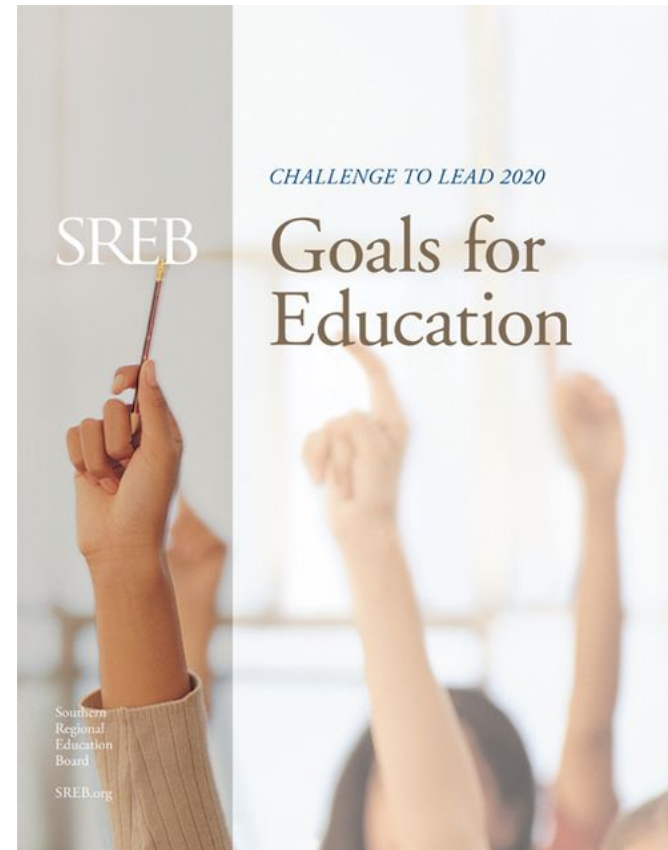
Part-time Students: Their Completion and Affordability Issues

*SREB Affordability Commission
June 25, 2015 | Naples, Florida*

*Cheryl Blanco, Vice President
Postsecondary Education*

Challenge Goal for Postsecondary Education

Sixty percent of working-age adults will have a postsecondary credential: an associate's or bachelor's degree, or a career certificate.



Today

- What do we know about PT students?
- How does financial aid fit in?
- Which factors support or impede timely completion?
- Where do we see effective state policy for PT students?
- How can state policy help make college more affordable for PT students?

Part-time student defined

The number of students enrolled in higher education courses with a total credit load less than 75 percent of the normal full-time credit load.

At the undergraduate level, part-time enrollment includes students who have a credit load of less than 12 semester or quarter credits.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *The Condition of Education 2014*.

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Enrollment of Part-time Students

Undergraduate PT enrollment: US

- 1959: 33.5% of undergrad enrollment
- 2013: 38.0% of undergrad enrollment

- 2013: 6.5 million PT undergrads
 - 2-year institutions: 4.7 million (27.2% of total undergrad enrollment all institutions)
 - 4-year institutions: 1.8 million (10.8% of total undergrad enrollment all institutions)

Sources: SREB calculations of IPEDS data.

Undergraduate PT enrollment: SREB

- 1978: 33.5% of undergraduate enrollment PT
- 1978: 903,000 PT undergrads
 - 2-year institutions: 582,000 (21.6% of total enrollment)
 - 4-year institutions: 321,000 (11.9% of total enrollment)
- 2013: 38.6% of undergraduate enrollment PT
- 2013: Nearly 2.3 million PT undergrads
 - 2-year institutions: 1.6 million (27.5% of total undergraduate enrollment all institutions)
 - 4-year institutions: 627,500 (11% of total undergraduate enrollment all institutions)

Source: SREB calculations of IPEDS data.

SREB Fall 2013 PT enrollment as a percent of undergraduate enrollment

- SREB slightly higher than US at 38.6%.
- States range from 20% to nearly 47% of undergraduate enrollment that is PT.
- Larger states tend to have higher percentages—FL, MD, TX.

Source: SREB 2013 Fact Book, Table 28.

	Percent of Undergraduate Enrollment
US	37.2%
SREB	38.6%
AL	31.2%
AR	32.7%
DE	33.5%
FL	42.0%
GA	33.9%
KY	35.9%
LA	32.2%
MD	44.1%
MS	20.0%
NC	34.9%
OK	34.2%
SC	30.2%
TN	28.4%
TX	46.5%
VA	37.1%
WV	22.7%

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Part-time Students by Age

US 2013

- Nearly 55% of PT students in 2-year institutions are under age 24.
- Less than 1/3 of PT students at 2-year institutions are in the 25 to 39 age bracket.
- And only 15% are age 40 or more.

	Institutional Type		
Age	All	4-year	2-year
0-24 years	44.20%	32.5%	54.7%
25 to 39 years	37.3%	45.2%	30.3%
40+ years	18.40%	22.3%	15.1%

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics, 2014*.

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- Nearly 57% of PT students in 2-year institutions are under age 24.
- More than 1/3 of PT students at 2-year institutions are in the 25 to 49 age bracket.
- And only 5% are age 50 or more.

	Institutional Type		
Age	All	4-year	2-year
0-24 years	52.3%	42.5%	56.7%
25 to 49 years	42.4%	52.4%	38.3%
50+ years	5.20%	6.0%	4.9%

Source: SREB calculations of IPEDS data.

PT enrollment,
Fall 2013 by
age and state,
all institutions

	24 and under	25-49	50+
SREB	52.3%	42.4%	5.2%
AL	46.5%	48.1%	5.3%
AR	55.2%	38.4%	6.4%
DE	44.8%	48.3%	6.4%
FL	51.2%	43.8%	4.8%
GA	49.9%	44.5%	5.4%
KY	49.8%	42.3%	7.8%
LA	60.1%	35.9%	3.9%
MD	45.2%	47.6%	7.1%
MS	49.0%	43.7%	6.2%
NC	49.3%	44.1%	6.3%
OK	51.6%	42.7%	4.8%
SC	51.3%	43.1%	5.5%
TN	51.6%	43.0%	5.3%
TX	59.5%	36.8%	3.6%
VA	49.4%	43.4%	7.2%
WV	28.0%	65.4%	6.6%

Source: National Student Clearinghouse, Signature Report 8, 2014.

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Enrollment Intensity

Full-time, Part-time, & Switchers

- 84% of undergrads maintained the same enrollment status through the 2003-04 academic year:
 - ❑ 49% were exclusively FT
 - ❑ 35% were exclusively PT
- 16% were “switchers” and many looked like FT students:
 - ❑ Traditional college age
 - ❑ Dependent and received parental financial support
 - ❑ Graduated high school with a regular diploma
- Proportion of “switchers” at community colleges increased from 21% in 2007-08 to 25% in 2011-12 (AACCC).

Source: Chen, X. (2007). *Part-Time Undergraduates in Postsecondary Education: 2003-04*. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, and American Association of Community Colleges, 2015.

Indiana study of PT college students (2014)

- In recent years, 55 percent of students attended at least one semester part-time—higher than national average (only students in public institutions and who filed FASFA).
 - 30% percent was exclusively PT.
 - 25% was switchers.

Source: Indiana Commission for Higher Education, *Indiana Part-time College Students*, 2014.

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Switchers and Attainment

National Student Clearinghouse (2008-2014)

Students who first enrolled in public 2-year colleges in Fall 2008 and their completion rates through May 2014

	Exclusively PT
US	18.8%
AL	--
AR	24.0%
DE	--
FL	26.8%
GA	35.5%
KY	29.6%
LA	--
MD	13.7%
MS	12.7%
NC	19.9%
OK	--
SC	20.5%
TN	19.8%
TX	15.5%
VA	21.7%
WV	--

	Switchers
US	35.9%
AL	--
AR	34.0%
DE	--
FL	50.9%
GA	36.6%
KY	36.3%
LA	--
MD	36.3%
MS	32.0%
NC	35.1%
OK	--
SC	34.6%
TN	36.3%
TX	38.9%
VA	45.2%
WV	--

Source: National Student Clearinghouse, *Signature Report 8*, 2014.

National Student Clearinghouse (2008-2014)

Students who first enrolled at public 4-year institutions in Fall 2008 and their completion rates through May 2014

	Exclusively PT
US	21.4%
AL	20.9%
AR	20.6%
DE	--
FL	22.2%
GA	29.3%
KY	25.2%
LA	14.1%
MD	42.4%
MS	33.3%
NC	30.4%
OK	11.6%
SC	17.8%
TN	15.7%
TX	24.2%
VA	30.8%
WV	15.2%

	Switchers
US	50.3%
AL	46.7%
AR	43.4%
DE	--
FL	55.4%
GA	53.8%
KY	41.9%
LA	48.5%
MD	45.3%
MS	42.9%
NC	50.7%
OK	38.9%
SC	49.2%
TN	39.7%
TX	54.3%
VA	56.5%
WV	40.5%

Source: National Student Clearinghouse, *Signature Report 8*, 2014.

Indiana study of part-time students

- Switchers complete at substantially greater rates than exclusively PT students
 - Switchers are 6 times more likely to complete a 2-year degree and more than 20 times more likely to complete a 4-year degree than students who always attend PT.
 - Switchers take more courses on an annual basis.

National Student Clearinghouse (2012) – Completion by Age

	Exclusively FT	Exclusively PT	Switcher
24 or younger	79%	10%	41%
Over 24	60%	28%	40%

Source: National Student Clearinghouse. *Completing College: A National View of Student Attainment Rates* (2012).

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Financial Aid

State financial aid programs for part-time students

- Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships
- Maryland Part-time Grant
- Tennessee Student Assistance Awards
- Virginia Part-Time Assistance Program
- West Virginia Higher Education Adult Part-time Student (HEAPS) Grant

Indiana's findings: Financial support

1. Independent students have much greater financial need than dependent students.
 - Tuition and cost of attendance is higher for switchers than for exclusively PT students—so “gap” between cost and ability to pay is greater for switchers.
2. Early financial aid deadlines block nontraditional students (who tend to file later) from some state and institutional aid.

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Issues

Issues

- Switchers - move from part-time to full-time
- Access to state financial aid
- Access to financial aid that helps cover living costs in addition to tuition & fees
- Educational debt
- Prior learning and competency-based credit
- Remediation
- Smooth pathways
- Support services