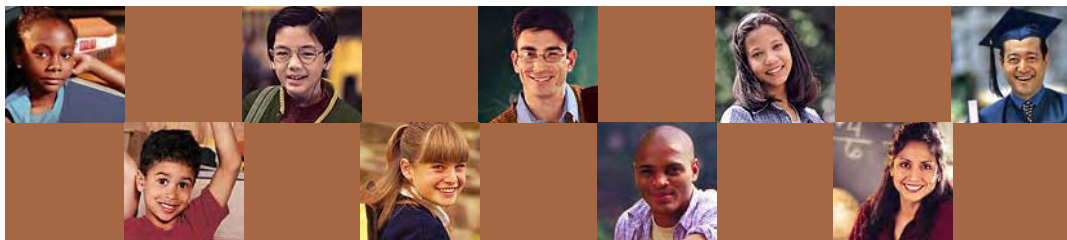


# the condition of education 2005



## INDICATOR 22

# Postsecondary Participation and Attainment Among Traditional-Age Students

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2005*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2005*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2005094>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Postsecondary Persistence and Progress

## Postsecondary Participation and Attainment Among Traditional-Age Students

*Twelfth-graders in 1992 were more likely than their counterparts in 1972 and 1982 to enroll in postsecondary education and, if they did, to earn at least a bachelor's degree by their mid-twenties.*

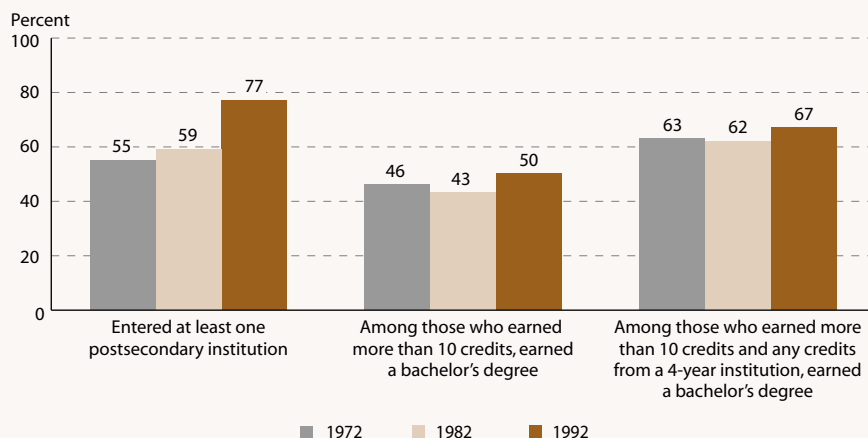
An increasing proportion of 12th-graders are continuing on to postsecondary education. More than three-quarters (77 percent) of the class of 1992 enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 8.5 years of high school, compared with 59 percent of the class of 1982 and 55 percent of the class of 1972. The participation rates of females and Whites were higher in 1992 than in 1982, and higher in 1982 than in 1972; the participation rates of Asians, Blacks, and Hispanics were also higher in 1992 than in 1982, but no difference was observed between their 1982 and 1972 rates (see supplemental table 22-1).

Among those who earned more than 10 postsecondary credits (i.e., did not simply take a course or two and leave postsecondary education), the proportion earning a bachelor's degree has increased: 50 percent of the class of 1992 earned at least a bachelor's degree within 8.5 years of high school, compared with 43 percent of the class of 1982 and 46 percent of the class of 1972. This increased attainment may mean that more students have bachelor's degree goals, those with such goals are more successful, or both.

Another measure of postsecondary success considers only students who earned more than 10 credits *and* any credits at a 4-year institution (Adelman 2004), thus signifying an intent to earn a bachelor's degree. Among these students, 67 percent of the high school class of 1992 earned at least a bachelor's degree within 8.5 years, compared with about 62 percent of the earlier classes. No difference was detected in the bachelor's degree attainment rate for males across the three cohorts (62–63 percent), while the attainment rate for females increased from 61–62 percent for the earlier classes to 71 percent for the class of 1992. The attainment rate for Blacks first declined (from 46 percent for the class of 1972 to 38 percent for the class of 1982), before increasing to 56 percent for the class of 1992. In each cohort, attainment rates for Blacks and Hispanics were lower than those for Whites.

The average amount of time students took to complete a bachelor's degree was longer for each successive cohort, but the differences represented less than a full term. Males have consistently taken longer to finish a bachelor's degree than females, and Hispanics have taken longer than Whites.

**ACCESS AND PERSISTENCE: Percentage of 1972, 1982, and 1992 12th-graders who entered postsecondary education, and among those who earned more than 10 credits or more than 10 credits and any from a 4-year institution, percentage who earned a bachelor's degree within 8.5 years**



NOTE: The 8.5 years is relative to the modal high school graduation date (June) for the cohort, not the individual's graduation date. For example, the end point for all the 1992 graduates is the end of 2000.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972, "Fifth Follow-up" (NLS:72/86), High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores, "Postsecondary Education Transcript Study" (HS&B-So:PETS), and National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88/2000), "Fourth Follow-up, Postsecondary Transcript Survey, 2000," previously unpublished tabulation (November 2004).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
 Supplemental Notes 1, 3, 8  
 Supplemental Table 22-1  
 Adelman 2004



## Postsecondary Participation and Attainment Among Traditional-Age Students

**Table 22-1.** Percentage of 1972, 1982, and 1992 12th-graders who entered postsecondary education, and among those who earned more than 10 credits, percentage who earned a bachelor's degree within 8.5 years, and average time to degree, by sex and race/ethnicity

Sex and race/ethnicity	Participated in postsecondary education			Earned at least a bachelor's degree		
	Entered at least one postsecondary institution	Earned more than 10 credits	Earned more than 10 credits and any credits from a 4-year institution	Among those who earned more than 10 credits	Among those who earned more than 10 credits and any credits from a 4-year institution	Of those who earned bachelor's degrees, average time to degree <sup>1</sup>
Total						
1972	55.4	48.0	35.2	45.5	62.7	4.34
1982	59.0	51.6	35.7	42.5	61.7	4.45
1992	77.3	67.5	50.7	50.3	67.1	4.56
Sex						
Male						
1972	57.8	50.1	37.5	47.2	63.1	4.45
1982	55.2	48.6	34.3	43.8	62.4	4.56
1992	74.6	64.8	48.8	46.8	62.2	4.68
Female						
1972	52.9	46.0	32.8	43.7	62.3	4.22
1982	62.8	54.5	37.1	41.4	61.2	4.36
1992	79.9	70.3	52.6	53.4	71.4	4.47
Race/ethnicity <sup>2</sup>						
Asian						
1972	71.8	65.2	51.0	60.2	77.4	4.50
1982	75.5	69.0	52.3	55.4	72.8	4.61
1992	91.6	82.0	68.3	57.5	68.9	4.61
Black						
1972	46.8	38.2	27.2	31.7	45.6	4.39
1982	47.2	39.0	24.5	23.0	37.5	4.57
1992	69.5	54.2	37.2	38.7	56.3	4.67
White						
1972	57.5	50.3	37.3	47.8	64.9	4.32
1982	62.4	55.2	39.1	46.0	65.0	4.44
1992	79.4	71.4	55.2	53.9	69.8	4.51
Hispanic						
1972	46.9	38.5	22.6	23.3	41.0	5.07
1982	44.2	34.3	18.7	24.5	44.4	4.66
1992	70.0	55.8	33.2	29.4	49.6	5.11

<sup>1</sup> Elapsed calendar years from date of entry.

<sup>2</sup> Asian includes Pacific Islander, Black includes African American, and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

NOTE: The 8.5 is relative to the modal high school graduation date (June) for the cohort, not the individual's graduation date. For example, the end point for the 1992 graduates is the end of 2000. See *supplemental note 3* for more information about the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88/2000). See *supplemental note 6* for more information about transcript studies.

SOURCE: Adelman, C. (2004). *Principal Indicators of Student Academic Histories in Postsecondary Education, 1972–2000*, table 2.3, and U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972, "Fifth Follow-up" (NLS:72/86), High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores, "Postsecondary Education Transcript Study" (HS&B-So:PETS), and National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88/2000), "Fourth Follow-up, Postsecondary Transcript Survey, 2000," previously unpublished tabulation (November 2004).

## Postsecondary Participation and Attainment Among Traditional-Age Students

**Table S22.** Standard errors for the percentage of 1972, 1982, and 1992 12th-graders who entered postsecondary education, and among those who earned more than 10 credits or more than 10 credits and any from a 4-year institution, percentage who earned a bachelor's degree within 8.5 years

Year	Entered at least one postsecondary institution	Among those who earned more than 10 credits, earned a bachelor's degree	Among those who earned more than 10 credits and any credits from a 4-year institution, earned a bachelor's degree
1972	0.53	0.63	0.68
1982	0.68	0.92	1.02
1992	0.87	1.13	1.07

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972, "Fifth Follow-up" (NLS:72/86), High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores, "Postsecondary Education Transcript Study" (HS&B-So:PETS), and National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88/2000); "Fourth Follow-up, Postsecondary Transcript Survey, 2000," previously unpublished tabulation (November 2004).

## Postsecondary Participation and Attainment Among Traditional-Age Students

**Table S22-1. Standard errors for the percentage of 1972, 1982, and 1992 12th-graders who entered postsecondary education, and among those who earned more than 10 credits, percentage who earned a bachelor’s degree within 8.5 years, and average time to degree, by sex and race/ethnicity**

Sex and race/ethnicity	Participated in postsecondary education			Earned at least a bachelor’s degree		
	Entered at least one postsecondary institution	Earned more than 10 credits	Earned more than 10 credits and any credits from a 4-year institution	Among those who earned more than 10 credits	Among those who earned more than 10 credits and any credits from a 4-year institution	Of those who earned bachelor’s degrees, average time to degree
<b>Total</b>						
1972	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.63	0.68	0.019
1982	0.68	0.71	0.72	0.92	1.02	0.026
1992	0.87	0.99	1.02	1.13	1.07	0.028
<b>Sex</b>						
<b>Male</b>						
1972	0.71	0.72	0.72	0.87	0.95	0.027
1982	0.94	0.96	0.94	1.32	1.38	0.036
1992	1.24	1.36	1.33	1.61	1.65	0.043
<b>Female</b>						
1972	0.64	0.66	0.65	0.86	0.98	0.024
1982	0.86	0.91	0.91	1.15	1.37	0.033
1992	1.21	1.30	1.35	1.38	1.32	0.035
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>						
<b>Asian</b>						
1972	3.17	3.32	3.79	4.32	3.77	0.113
1982	3.17	3.64	3.70	3.46	3.10	0.094
1992	1.43	2.85	3.08	4.16	4.81	0.193
<b>Black</b>						
1972	1.23	1.18	1.15	1.82	2.47	0.067
1982	1.64	1.58	1.38	1.82	2.81	0.088
1992	3.59	3.56	2.88	3.78	3.98	0.133
<b>White</b>						
1972	0.61	0.62	0.60	0.68	0.72	0.020
1982	0.80	0.83	0.85	1.04	1.10	0.028
1992	0.83	0.94	1.07	1.18	1.14	0.030
<b>Hispanic</b>						
1972	2.33	2.02	1.74	2.39	3.95	0.170
1982	1.98	1.84	1.42	2.40	4.00	0.087
1992	3.24	3.27	2.74	3.10	3.90	0.139

SOURCE: Adelman, C. (2004). *Principal Indicators of Student Academic Histories in Postsecondary Education, 1972–2000*, table D-3, and U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Longitudinal Study of the High School Class of 1972, “Fifth Follow-up” (NLS:72/86), High School and Beyond Longitudinal Study of 1980 Sophomores, “Postsecondary Education Transcript Study” (HS&B-So:PETS), and National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88/2000), “Fourth Follow-up, Postsecondary Transcript Survey, 2000,” previously unpublished tabulation (November 2004).