

CURRENT COLLEGE DATA LEAVES STUDENTS IN THE DARK

Students and families need clear and accurate information when selecting a postsecondary option in order to pick a school best-suited to meet their needs. But the information that's available on student outcomes today doesn't tell the full story—leaving students in the dark.



Graduation Rate

The current federal graduation rate only factors in **first-time, full-time students**



47%

of all students



of students at 4-year schools are invisible



of students at 2-year schools are invisible

leaving out many students who work while going to school or have attended more than one institution



Part-time Students

Invisible in our current system, whether or not they end up graduating.



Transfer Students

Counted as failures in the current system, whether or not they graduate from another institution.



Earnings Data

The federal government provides data on the salaries of students after they attend an institution. But right now, current earnings data only factors in

students who received federal student aid or grants



70%

of all students



of students at 4-year schools are invisible



of students at 2-year schools are invisible



Program Level

The current data has no distinction between various programs of study. Not all programs at a given institution are of the same quality, and

student outcomes can depend on their choice of major



But, there's a way to fix it and count all students. Learn more at: <http://thrdwy.org/2ut08Lq>

Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. Author's calculations using full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate enrollment for Fall 2015 (current year GRS cohort) and total entering students at the undergraduate level Fall 2015.
Source for students not covered in earnings data: National Postsecondary Student Aid Study, 2012.
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