Mobility among college students

About 12 percent of public two-year college students attend at least one other institution.


Note: Academic year defined as July 1-June 30, the same definition used for IPEDS 12-month unduplicated headcounts. A student is considered “mobile” in an academic year if he or she enrolls for any length of time at more than one postsecondary institution in that year. The data includes both undergraduate and graduate/professional students. Two-year for-profits and two-year private, non-profit institutions are not shown in the table due to small counts, but they are included in “All Sectors.”

Many students attend more than one institution in an academic year — a behavior most common among community college students. The mobility rate for public two-year institutions was 11.5 percent in 2012-2013, compared to 8.7 percent at public four-year institutions. The overall mobility rate for all sectors was 9.1 percent. Public two-year institutions continued to have the highest rate across the three different academic years studied. For more, click here.

For more information, contact Kent Phillippe, associate vice president for research and student success at the American Association of Community Colleges, at (202) 416-4505 or kphillippe@aacc.nche.edu, or Rahel Tekle, AACC research associate, at (202) 416-4508 or rtekle@aacc.nche.edu.