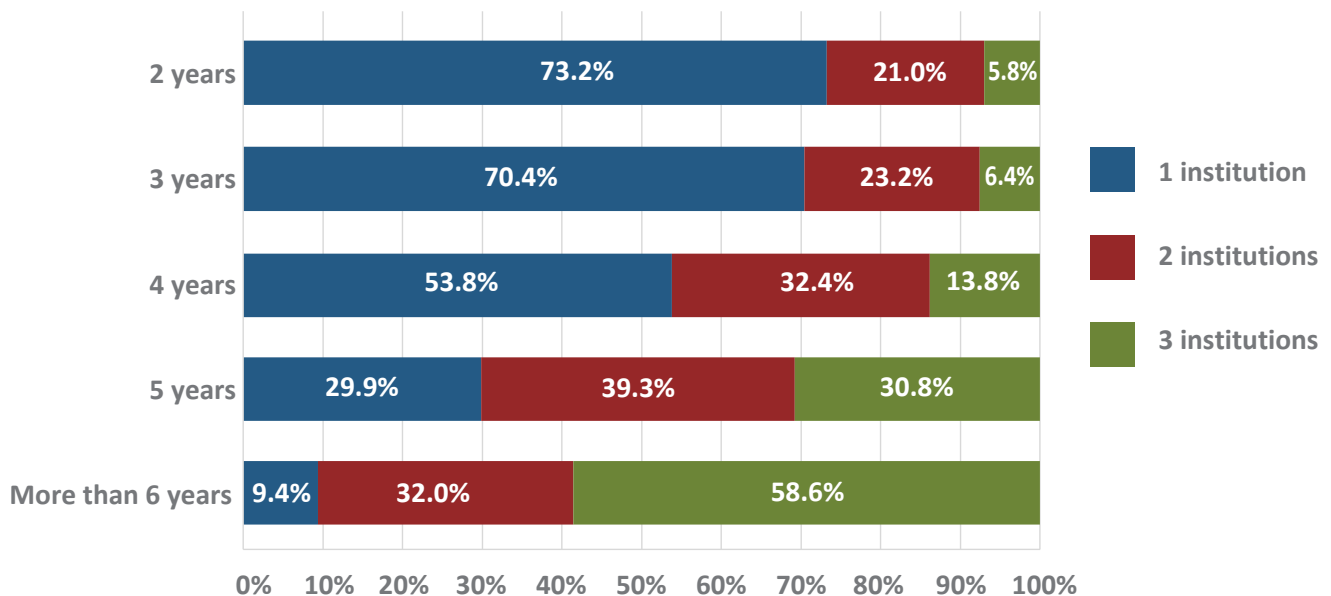


Degree completion

More than one in four students attend two or more institutions to complete their associate degree.

Percent of associate-degree earners from public two-year institutions by total enrolled time and number of institutions attended



Source: National Student Clearinghouse Research, “Time to Degree: A National View of the Time Enrolled and Elapsed for Associate and Bachelor’s Degree Earners, (Signature Report No. 11)” September, 2016.



Community college students take many different pathways to complete credentials. A [new study](#) confirms that most degree earners, including bachelor’s degree seekers, enrolled over time at multiple institutions to earn their credentials. About 73 percent of students who earned associate credentials in two years attended one institution, and 27 percent attended two or more institutions. The data show that the longer it takes community college students to complete their credentials, the more likely they will attend several institutions. For example, 46 percent of students who took four years to complete their associate degree attended two or more institutions. Most community college students juggle going to college, work and family obligations, which is partly why it takes them longer to complete their credentials.

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