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*Today's News*

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**Women and Students at Private Nonprofit Colleges Are Most Likely to Graduate, Federal Report Says**

Some 35 percent of first-time, full-time college students who plan to earn a bachelor's degree reach their goal within four years, and 56 percent achieve it within six years, according to a [report](#) released by the U.S. Department of Education on Monday.

The figures, which cover students who entered four-year colleges in the fall of 1998 and followed their progress through August 2004, showed that completion rates were higher for women and students at private nonprofit colleges.

After six years, 59 percent of female students had earned degrees, while 53 percent of male students had. By institution type, 64 percent of students at private nonprofit colleges had a degree within six years, compared with 53 percent of those at public colleges and 25 percent of those at private for-profit colleges.

Total postsecondary enrollment in the fall of 2004 stood at 17.7 million, with 17.3 million students at 4,212 degree-granting colleges and the remainder at 2,162 other postsecondary institutions, such as trade schools.

In an analysis of student migration across state lines to attend college, the report said that Florida had the highest net migration in the fall of 2004, with about 20,000 more first-time undergraduates entering the state for college than leaving it. New Jersey was at the other end of the scale, with nearly 27,000 more students leaving the state for college than entering it.

The department also reported summary statistics on college revenues and expenditures in the 2004 fiscal year and financial aid data for first-time, full-time undergraduates in 2003-4.

The figures are from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, commonly known as Ipeds, which compiles information from reports that colleges that receive federal funds are required to file.

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