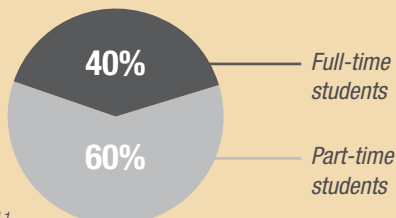


Characteristics of Community College Students

Students Juggle Priorities

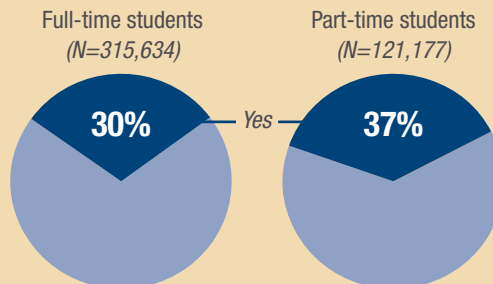
Most students attend classes and study while working; caring for dependents; and struggling to balance personal, academic, and financial challenges. Colleges can help students plan their coursework around their other commitments and develop skills to manage the demands on their time.

Attending college (N=7,147,084)



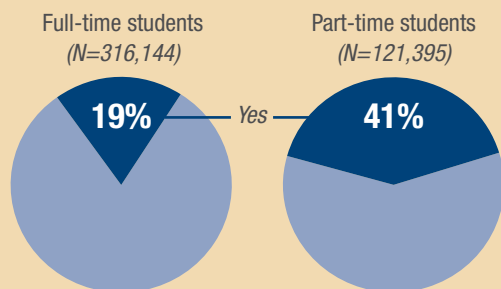
Source: IPEDS, fall 2011

Caring for dependents 11 or more hours per week



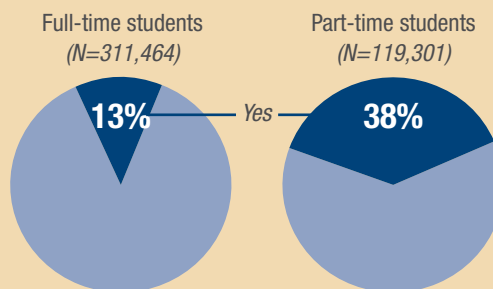
Source: 2012 CCSSE Cohort data

Working more than 30 hours per week



Source: 2012 CCSSE Cohort data

Taking evening and/or weekend classes

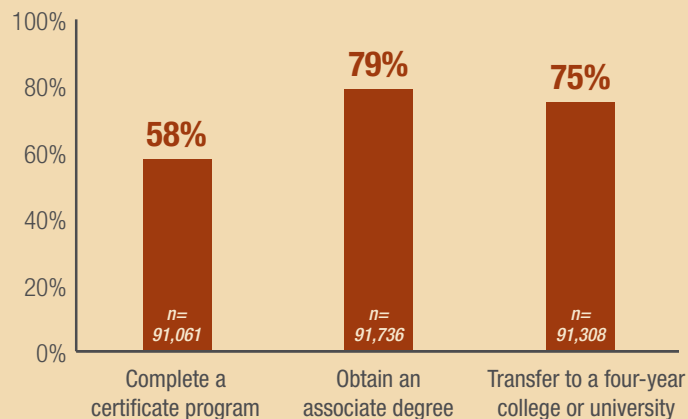


Source: 2012 CCSSE Cohort data

Students' Aspirations and Attainment: Fewer Than Half of Students Reach Their Goals

Available data show a sizable gap between the percentage of entering students who aim to complete a credential and the percentage of those who actually do.

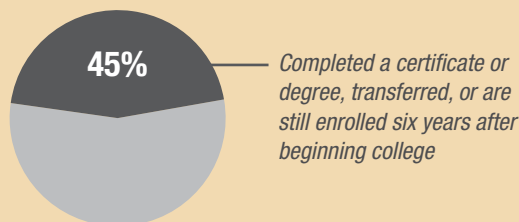
Please indicate whether your goal(s) for attending this college include the following:



Note: Respondents may indicate more than one goal.

Source: 2012 SENSE Cohort data (entering students)

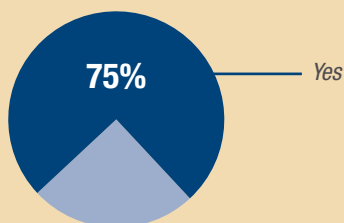
Six years after beginning community college, fewer than half of students who entered college with a goal of earning a degree or certificate have earned a credential, have transferred to a four-year institution, or are still enrolled in their community college.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, NCES. (2001). Beginning postsecondary students longitudinal study 1996–2001 (BPS: 96/01). Analysis by Community College Research Center.

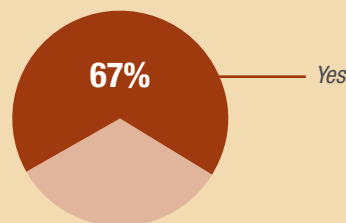
Testing Indicates Many Students Are Underprepared

CCSSE respondents who report that they took a placement test and the test indicated that they needed developmental education in at least one area (N=69,767)



Source: 2012 CCSSE Promising Practices data

SENSE respondents who report that their placement tests indicated they needed developmental coursework in at least one area (N=49,942)

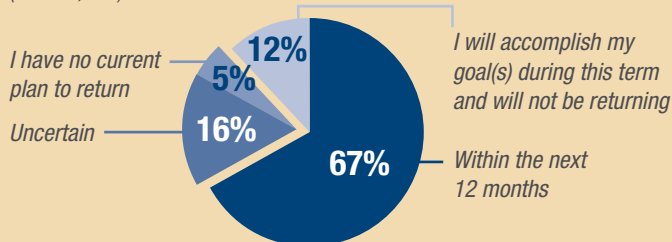


Source: 2012 SENSE Cohort data (entering students)

Students' Plans After the Current Semester

Asked about their plans after the current semester, almost one-quarter (21%) of CCSSE respondents report that they have no plan to return to college or are uncertain about their future plans. These data suggest an opportunity for colleges to help students establish academic plans and pathways that will help them persist in college.

When do you plan to take classes at this college again?
(N=434,944)



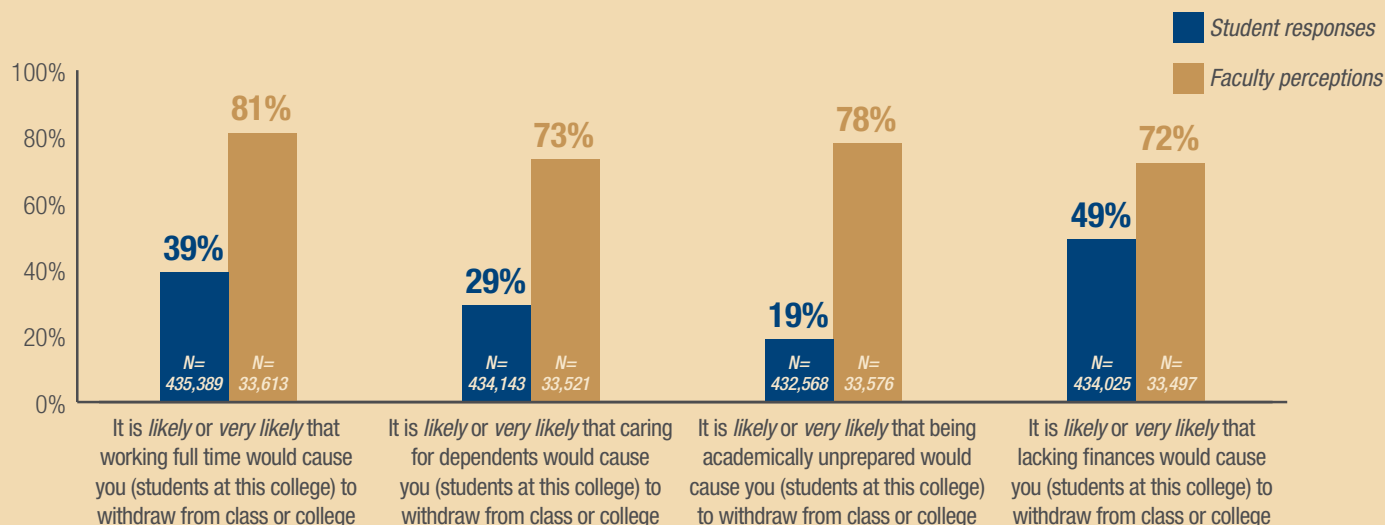
Source: 2012 CCSSE Cohort data

“I was going to go full time, but with my schedule and the kids, and working, it wasn’t realistic. [My advisor] helped me be more realistic with planning my classes. I’m [attending] part time now, and I can’t imagine taking one more class right now.”

Student

Student and Faculty Views: What Stands Between Students and Their Aspirations

CCSSE and CCFSSSE data indicate that many faculty members are more likely than students to believe that various circumstances, including working full time, caring for dependents, or being academically underprepared, would be likely causes for students to withdraw from classes or college.



Sources: 2012 CCSSE Cohort data and 2012 CCFSSSE Cohort data