

Seven risk factors have been found to be negatively correlated with retention and degree attainment (Horn & Premo, 1995). These factors are: (1) enrolled part-time; (2) have children or dependents; (3) work full-time while enrolled; (4) are single parents; (5) are financially independent; (6) delayed postsecondary enrollment by one or more years; and (7) have a GED or high school dropout. Students with three or more of these risk factors have been found to graduate at substantially lower rates than other students (Berkner, Cuccaro-Alamin, & McCormick, 1996). A follow-up study by Horn, Peter, and Rooney (2002) they reported that three quarters of students had at least one of these seven risk factors, while the average number was 2.2.

Berkner, L.K., Cuccaro-Alamin, S., & McCormick, A.C. (1996). Descriptive summary of 1989-90 beginning postsecondary students: Five years later. Statistical Analysis Report NCES 96-155. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics.

Horn, L.J., & Premo, M.D. (1995). *Profile of undergraduates in U.S. postsecondary educational institutions: 1992-1993*. Statistical Analysis Report NCES 96-237. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs/96237.pdf>

Horn, L.J., Peter, K., & Rooney, K. (2002). *Profile of undergraduates in U.S. postsecondary educational institutions: 1999-2000*. Statistical Analysis Report NCES 2002-168. Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2002/2002168.PDF>