Post-Secondary Student Pathways in Northwest Indiana: Patterns of Enrollment

Research findings from the Mobile Working Students Collaborative

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Indiana University Northwest
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Project on Academic Success

Succeeding Working Students

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Overview

- Study Context
- Data and Methods
- Findings
- Discussions
Study Context

- The Mobile Working Student Collaborative (MWSC) is a three-year policy-oriented study funded by the Lumina Foundation for Education.
- The quantitative analyses using statewide database aim to provide a broader scope and perspective for the MWSC and to provide contextual information for qualitative work.
- The Project on Academic Success (PAS) has completed various quantitative reports on enrollment patterns among students in Northwest Indiana. This presentation is based on a synthesis of these reports.
Study Context

- Describing “The Region”
  - Captures three counties – Lake (81%), Porter (14%), LaPorte (5%)
  - Population
    - Racial/Ethnic Composition – Varies by County
      - 18.9% African American
      - 10.9% Hispanic-Latino
    - Educational Attainment – Varies by Area
      - 18.8% in Gary
      - 26.4% in Portage
      - 34.9% in Merrillville
  - Higher Education in “The Region”
    - Public institutions
    - Private institutions
Data and Methods

- **Data source**
  - The Student Information System (SIS) of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (ICHE)

- **Population**
  - Undergraduates in 2000-2001 at Purdue University Calumet (PUC), Ivy Tech Community College Northwest (ITCCINW), and Indiana University Northwest (IUN)

- **Time frame**
  - From 2000-2001 to 2005-2006

- **Descriptive statistics**
Findings: Initial Enrollment by Demographics

- Gender & Institution

![Bar chart showing number of men and women enrolled by institution in 2000-2001.](image)
• More women than men enrolled in college in Northwest Indiana.
  • Of the total number of students enrolled at all three institutions, 56.6% (13,440 in count) were women and 43.4% (10,310 in count) were men.
• The ratio of female enrollment to male enrollment varied from institution to institution:
  • ITCCINW 49.4% female
  • PUC 55.4% female
  • IUN 68.2% female
Findings: Initial Enrollment by Demographics

Race and Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race and Ethnicity</th>
<th>IUN</th>
<th>PUC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native American, other</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American, Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IUN PUC
Findings: Initial Enrollment by Demographics

- Student enrollment at PUC (10,281) was almost twice the number at IUN (5,780).
- IUN’s student population was more diverse, with a higher percentage of students of color (36%), compared to PUC (29%).
- African American Students comprised almost 26% (1,489) of the total student population at IUN, compared to 13% (1,296) at PUC.
Findings: Initial Enrollment by Demographics

- Age

Age Distribution by Campus 2000 - 2001

- Under 21
- 21-24
- 25-29
- 30-35
- 36 and Older

IUN (n=5780)   PUC (n=10278)   ITCCI NW (n=7619)
• IUN and PUC showed similar enrollment patterns for students under the age of 35
  • PUC enrolled approximately half of all students under 25 in northwest Indiana.
• All campuses demonstrated substantial enrollments of students over the age of 30
  • ITCCI NW enrolled the most students over the age of 30.
Findings: Initial Enrollment by Demographics

- Family income level (IUN & ITCCINW)

![Self-Reported Family Income by Age, 2000-2001*](image-url)

* For IUN and ITCCINW students who filed FAFSA forms
• Approximately 74% of all students represented in the graph reported a family income below $19,000.

• Grouped by age, the largest cohort is students under age 21 (3,806), followed by students aged 21-24 (3,093), students 36 years old and older (2,980), and students aged 25-29 (2,111). The smallest cohort was comprised of students aged 30-35.

• Students under 21 represent the largest cohort in each income category; while the number of students aged 36 and over are quite substantial especially in lower-income groups.
Findings: Degree Aspirations

- Degree aspirations

Degree Aspirations for Students Seeking an Academic Credential

- 1st Bachelor's Degree
- 2nd Bachelor's Degree
- Associate's Degree (Occupational)
- Associate's Degree (General)
- Certificate or Diploma
The degree aspirations of students attending a two-year institution were markedly different from those of students at a four-year institution.

- Larger proportions of students enrolled at ITCCI NW planned to complete a **first-** (33.5%) or **second** (34.4%) **bachelor’s degree**.
- The largest number of students at IUN (655) and PUC (1,152) reported plans to complete an **occupational associate’s degree**.
- The largest number of students at ITCCINW planned to complete a **second bachelor’s degree** (923).
- 16.3% of students at IUN, 13.8% of students at PUC, and 3.1% students at ITCCINW reported to have plans for a **certificate or diploma program**.
Findings: Course-Load Patterns

- Credit-hour load & age
• The number of full-time students (≥12 credit hours) dropped from 7,909 in fall 2000 to 7,340 in spring 2001, with the most significant drop among students under age 21.
• More students aged 29 or under enrolled as part-time (<12 credit hours) in spring 2001 compared to the previous fall.
• The enrollment of students aged 30 and above remained relatively the same from fall 2000 to spring 2001.
Findings: Course-Load Patterns

- Course-Load Patterns among Working Students

### Fall 2005—Credits Attempted by Age Group and Hours Worked

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours Worked</th>
<th>Median Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not employed</td>
<td>Under 21: 12, 21-24: 14, 25-29: 12, 30 and older: 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-10 hours/week</td>
<td>Under 21: 13, 21-24: 15, 25-29: 13, 30 and older: 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-30 hours/week</td>
<td>Under 21: 15, 21-24: 17, 25-29: 15, 30 and older: 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41 or more hours/week</td>
<td>Under 21: 17, 21-24: 19, 25-29: 17, 30 and older: 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Students who worked more hours attempted fewer credits, except for those under age 21.
• College students under age 21 tend not to decrease their course load while also working full time.
• Interestingly, there was no difference in the number of credits taken by age group for those students who reported working 11-20 hours per week.
Findings: Student Movement

- **Student Mobility**
  - Definition: mobility is defined as movement between instructional homes, “where the student takes the majority of course work throughout the year” (ICHE, 2006, P.6)
  - For students who enrolled a total of two or more years within the 2000-2005 time frame
    - 20% of students started at a four-year institution moved to other institutions, while 30% of students started at a two-year institution did so.
    - 81% of students who started at PUC did not move to another institution; neither did 77.3% of IUN students and 71.8% of ITCCINW students.
    - Among students who moved to another institution, very few moved more than once.
Discussion

- Institutions serving specific groups of students
- Support for institutions to serve these students
- Additional enrollment trends and emerging student populations
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engaging in practice- and policy-oriented research on academic success with emphasis on factors influencing persistence in and access to higher education