Five-year In-state Retention Rate

December 7, 2009

Method

A cohort of students
--2001 graduates--are
chosen from the
Community College MIS.
The MIS contains individual
student records including
sociodemographic
characteristics, program of
study, and awards.

Typically community colleges use postal surveys to follow-up with alumni. However, frequent moves, low response rates, and the expense of mailings make surveys an inefficient method. We use the Community College MIS, National Student Clearinghouse, and Iowa Workforce Development's Unemployment Insurance (UI) records to calculate the five-year retention rate. National Student Clearinghouse contains a record of enrollment in nearly 3,000 institutions of higher education. Unemployment Insurance records contains employment data for most workers employed in Iowa.

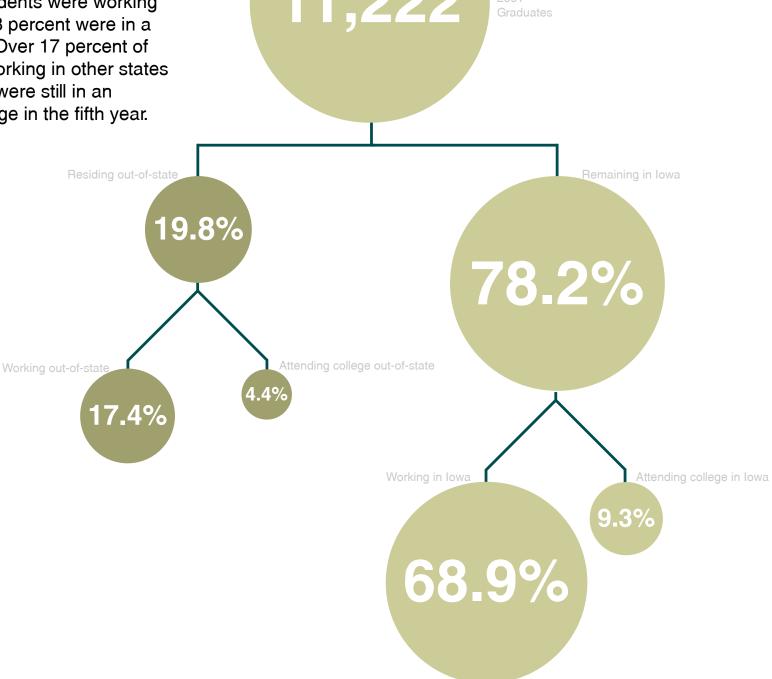
MIS data is matched with the National Student Clearinghouse between July 2001 and June 2005 to measure the participation in four-year universities in the intermediate period.

MIS data is then
matched with the
National Student
Clearinghouse between July
2005 and June 2006 to
measure those in college in
the fifth year. Residency
information is also
established.

Fifth-year National
Student Clearinghouse
data is not matched with
Ul records to avoid
duplication. The five year
retention rate is then
calculated for those only in
the workforce.

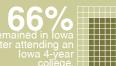
Results

Seventy-eight percent of the 11,222 graduates from 2001 were either working or attending college in Iowa five years after graduation. Sixty-nine percent of all students were working in Iowa, while 9.3 percent were in a college in Iowa. Over 17 percent of students were working in other states and 4.4 percent were still in an out-of-state college in the fifth year.



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returned to lowa after attending an out-of-state