

Postsecondary Enrollment and Completion for Deaf Students



***DISCLAIMER:** Some of the numbers in this document varied significantly according to the source of data. These differences were related to how data were collected, from whom data were collected, the definition of "deaf," and other factors.*

Enrollment

Survey on Deaf Students in Postsecondary Education

- 1989–1990: **17,040** deaf students enrolled in postsecondary education
- 1992–1993: On average, **9.8** deaf students at each institution

National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS)

- 1989–1990: **258,197** deaf students enrolled in 2-year and 4-year postsecondary education institutions
- 1995–1996:
 - **16%** of students with disabilities reported being deaf
 - **60%** of eighth-graders who completed high school went on to enroll in postsecondary education

National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2)

- Between 2000 and 2010:
 - **75%** of deaf students had ever enrolled in any type of postsecondary institution, compared to 68% in the general population (significantly higher than several other disability groups)
 - **52%** of deaf students enrolled in 2-year or community colleges
 - **43%** of deaf students enrolled in vocational, business, or technical schools
 - **34%** of deaf students enrolled in 4-year colleges
- Between 1987 and 2005: Enrollment of deaf students in any type of postsecondary institution increased by **24% to 30%**

Completion

Synthesis of Several Nationally Representative Data Sets (1988–1994, 1990–1991, 1994–1995)

- **5%** of deaf individuals graduated from college (in comparison to 13% of hearing population)
- **53%** of deaf individuals had completed any type of postsecondary institution

NPSAS (1995–1996)

- **40%** of deaf young adults had attained their degree or certificate by 1994 (began postsecondary in 1989–1990)



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NLTS2 (2000–2010)

- **53%** of deaf young adults had completed some type of postsecondary education, compared with 52% of students with other disabilities
- **37%** of deaf young adults completed degrees from 2- or 4-year institutions

According to the NLTS2, **53%** of deaf young adults had completed any type of postsecondary education, and **37%** completed degrees from 2- or 4-year institutions.

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