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CONSTRUCTION OF VARIABLES

Graduation data have been drawn from two principal sources: offices of the registrar at the 28 colleges and universities in the NLSF, and the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC), a nonprofit organization providing post-secondary and secondary student degree, diploma and enrollment verification. By analyzing and cross-checking these references over the period of two years (2005-2006), the NLSF team collected concrete graduation data for 3,914 out of 3,924 total students. The variables constructed include an “overall graduation” variable (*overallg*), an “on time graduation” variable (*gradtime*), and a variable (*gradcode*) indicating 14 different paths taken by the NLSF students in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree.

CASE ID INFO

caseid **Case Number**

GRADUATION DATA

gradcode Graduation code key

1) no information found through school or National Student Clearinghouse

Original school

- 2) graduated original school EARLY--i.e. before the spring of 2003
- 3) graduated original school ON TIME, i.e. the spring of 2003
- 4) graduated original school with a joint degree within one year beyond the spring of 2003, but classified as graduating ON TIME
- 5) graduated original school LATE, i.e. sometime between the end of summer 2003 through the spring of 2005
- 6) disappears from original school, no transfer data observed, did not graduate
- 7) still enrolled at original school as of spring 2005, not yet graduated

Transfer school

- 8) graduated EARLY from a TRANSFER school
- 9) graduated ON TIME from a TRANSFER school, i.e. the spring of 2003
- 10) graduated from a TRANSFER school with a joint degree within one year beyond the spring of 2003, classified as graduating ON TIME
- 11) graduated TRANSFER school LATE, i.e. sometime between the end of summer 03 through the spring of 2005
- 12) still enrolled at a TRANSFER school (perhaps the 2nd or 3rd such school) as of the spring of 2005, not yet graduated
- 13) disappears from TRANSFER school, did not graduate

14) graduated from community college (only 2 cases, not counted as having graduated since the degree was not obtained from a 4-year college)

gradtime Graduation within 4 years

- 0 Not graduate from college (from original or transfer college) within 4 years
- 1 Graduated from college (from the original or transfer college) within 4 years (i.e. by spring of 2003)

overallg Graduation within 6 years

- 0 Not graduated from college (from original or transfer college) within 6 years
- 1 Graduated from college (from the original or transfer college) within 6 years (i.e. by spring of 2005)