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

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

Original 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 2003 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

Transfer school

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)