

NEW ENGLAND BOARD
of HIGHER EDUCATION



**New England Transfer Guarantee
Enrollment Highlights
(Academic Year 2024-2025)**
March 2026

By Jessica Park
with Robert Johnston & Sarah Kuczynski, PhD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The progress highlighted in the *New England Transfer Guarantee Enrollment Highlights* reflects the collaboration of the participating two and four-year institutions across the region. With the Guarantee fully implemented in all six New England states, the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) has committed to continue annual data collection and will produce a streamlined highlights report—of which this is the first—based on the analysis of this data as well.

The NEBHE team would like to thank the following generous funders who supported the Guarantee’s now-complete implementation:

- Arthur Vining Davis Foundations
- Davis Educational Foundation
- Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation
- Teagle Foundation

THE GUARANTEE BY THE NUMBERS

- The 2024-2025 academic year marked **the first time that Guarantee enrollment data was collected from the northern New England states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont**, where the initiative was only recently implemented in summer of 2024.
 - Due to concerns related to student privacy associated with having a small initial cohort size, state-level results for Maine will not be included in the highlights that follow; for the same reason, Maine’s enrollment has been excluded from the aggregate totals in what follows.
- As of the 2024-2025 academic year, **a total of 2,219 unique students have transferred through the Guarantee.**
- As of the 2024-2025 academic year, **609 unique students have graduated with a bachelor’s degree** from their four-year transfer destination.

ENROLLMENT PATTERNS

Data reflects student enrollment at participating four-year receiving institutions across New England during the Academic Year (AY) 2024-2025 reporting period, including summer and winter terms. Results are reported at the state level.

Year-over-Year Enrollment Trends

- Total unique students (AY 2024-2025): 857
- Previous year enrollment (AY 2023-2024): 576 students
- Year-over-year increase in total enrollment: +49%

As can be gleaned from the table below, the increase in total enrollment in the most recent academic year came primarily from the first-time inclusion of enrollment data from New Hampshire and Vermont rather than from increases in state-specific

enrollments from the southern New England states (with the exception of Rhode Island).

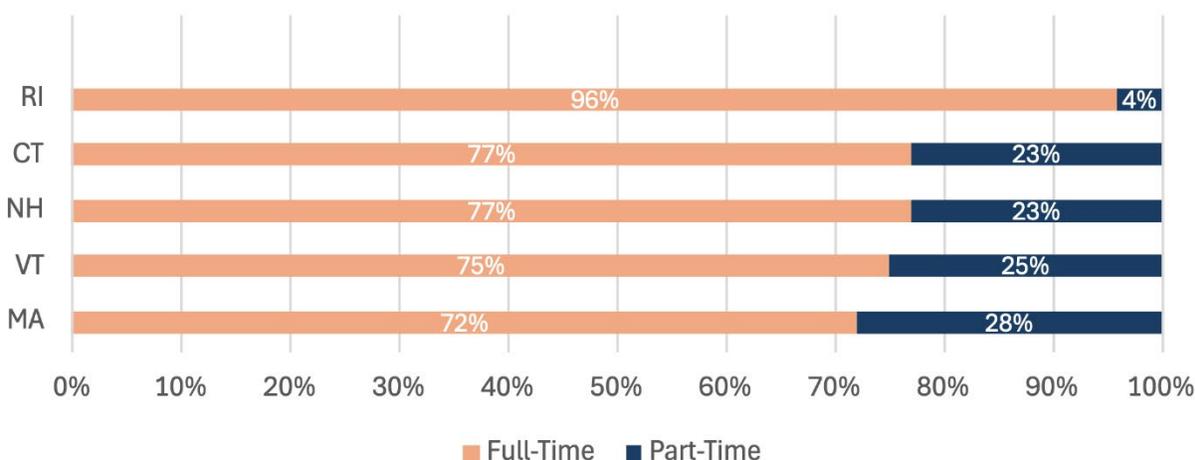
State	Time Period					% Change Between AY	Total Unique Students	
	Spring 2021	AY 2021-22	AY 2022-23	AY 2023-24	AY 2024-25		Count	Percentage
CT	25	101	75	201	145	-28	547	25%
MA	69	222	255	357	243	-32	1146	52%
RI	-	19	20	18	20	11	77	3%
NH	-	-	-	-	156	N/A	156	7%
VT	-	-	-	-	293	N/A	293	13%
Total	94	342	350	576	857	49	2219	100%

Enrollment Intensity

- 2024-2025 Academic Year: 74% Full-time, 26% Part-time
- 2023-2024 Academic Year: 74% Full-time, 26% Part-time

The enrollment intensity distribution was calculated within each academic year and remained consistent across both reporting periods.

Guarantee students overwhelmingly enroll full-time



Student Withdrawals

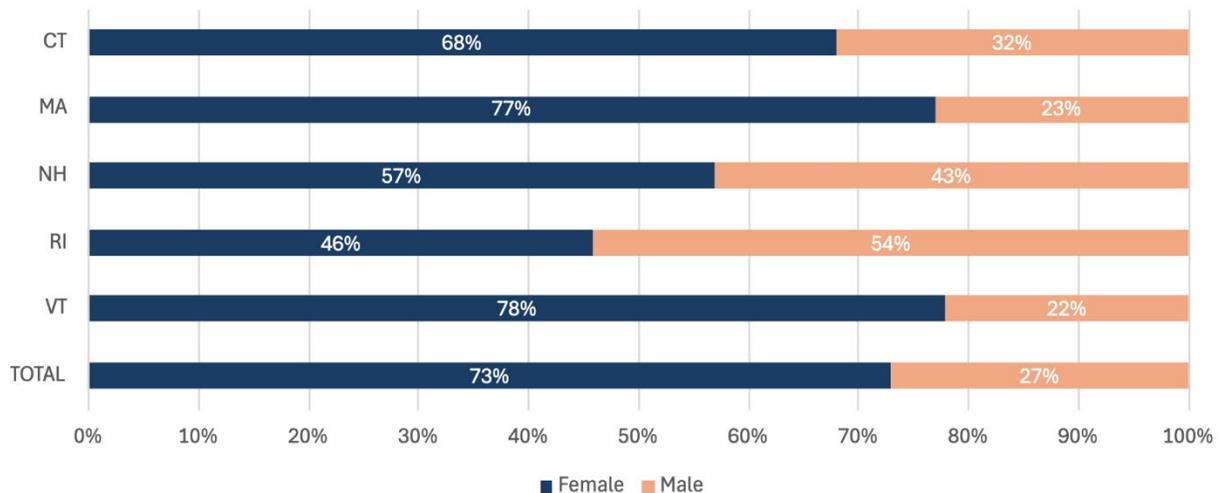
It is important to NEBHE and the sending and receiving institutions that participate in the Guarantee to know whether students are continuing their coursework at the four-year institution beyond the semester in which they have transferred. To date approximately 7.5% of enrollees (167 of 2,219) have withdrawn post-transfer.

DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION

Gender

Across New England, the Guarantee served a predominantly female student population, with 73% female and 27% male students overall. Female representation was highest in Vermont (78%), and Massachusetts (77%), following by Connecticut (68%) and New Hampshire (57%). Rhode Island was the only state with a majority male population, with 54% male and 46% female.

Female students represent majority of enrollments in most states



Median Age

Student ages were calculated at the time of initial enrollment. Across Spring 2021-Spring 2025, student ages ranged from 16-67. Age ranges varied by state: Connecticut enrolled students aged 18-67, Massachusetts 17-63, New Hampshire 16-59, Rhode Island 18-50, and Vermont 18-62.

Similar to previous years, median age varied among students of different enrollment intensities (part-time versus full-time). Across Spring 2021-Spring 2025, the overall median of Guarantee students was 26 (n = 2211). When disaggregated by enrollment status, full-time students had a median age of 24, compared to 32 for part-time students.

There was also some significant variation in median age across states. For example, median age was 24 in both Connecticut and New Hampshire, 27 in Massachusetts, and 21 in Rhode Island. Vermont had the highest median age at 28, perhaps reflecting the greater flexibility of its online program offerings, which can be attractive to adult learners with increased life and work responsibilities.

First - Generation Status

As in the prior year, for students for whom this information was reported, 43% were identified as first-generation college students while 57% were not.

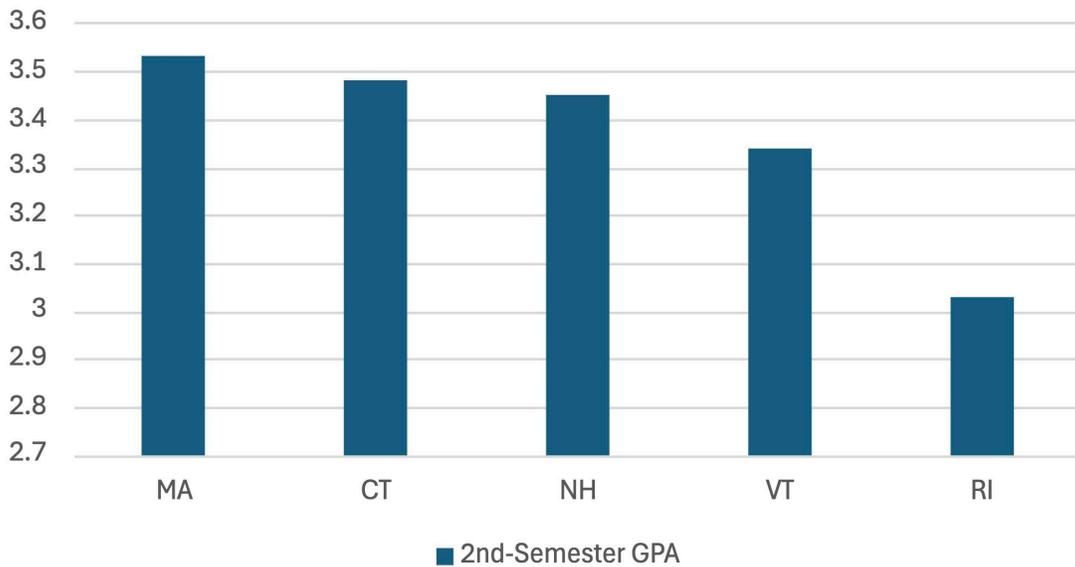
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The gap between academic performance at community college and early academic achievement following transfer continues to widen. At the time of transfer, Guarantee students had an average community college grade point average (GPA) of 3.28, representing a slight decrease from last year (3.32), though this figure remains well above the minimum eligibility threshold.

Year-over-year comparisons further reinforce this upward trend. The average GPA for the AY 2024-25 reached 3.56, the highest observed to date, exceeding last year’s average (3.48) and the average from the prior year (3.22).

When using second-semester GPA as a proxy for early academic achievement, students averaged a 3.51 GPA, slightly higher than the prior year (3.50). Below you can see the state-level breakdown of second-semester GPA for the 2024-25 academic year.

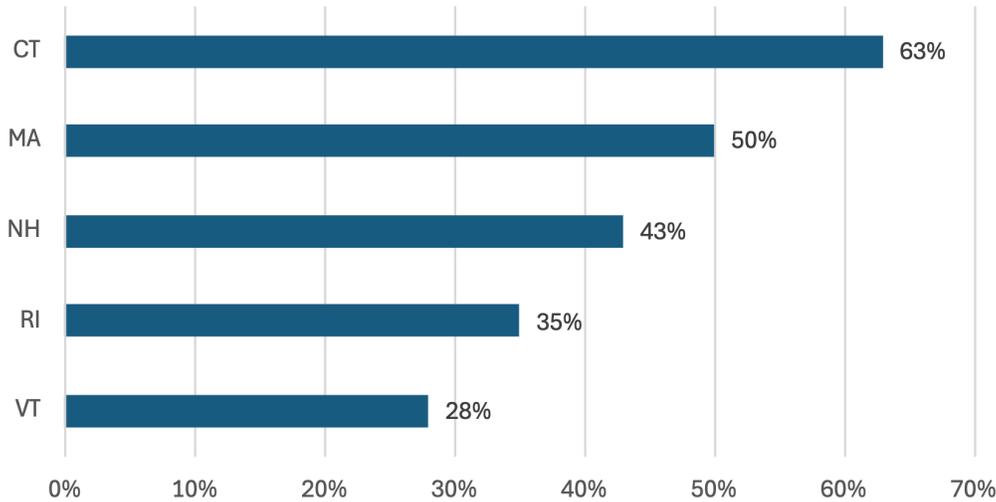
Second-Semester GPA by State (AY 2024-25)



LIBERAL ARTS MAJORS

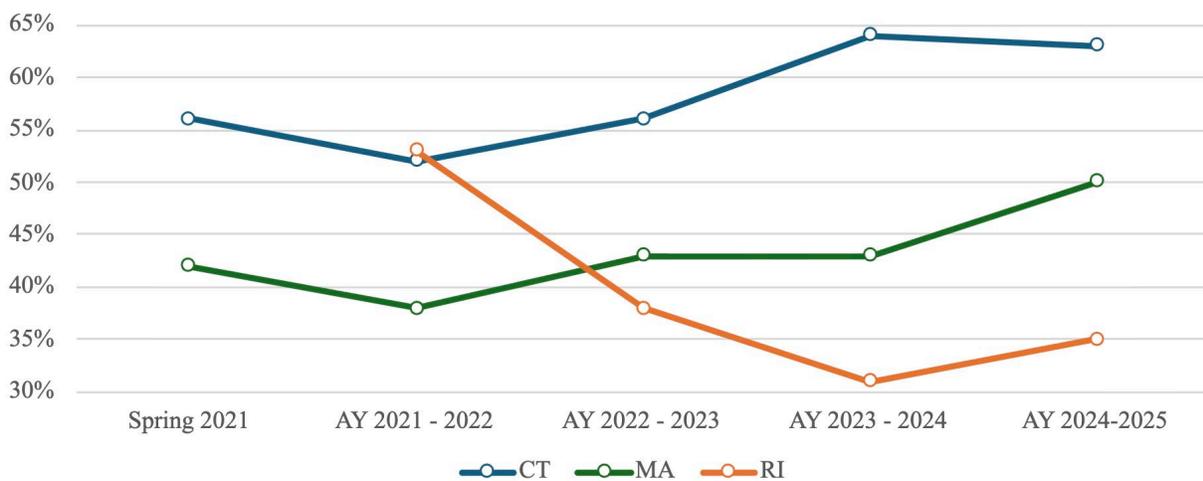
The Guarantee emphasizes the development of liberal arts transfer pathways across participating institutions. Between Spring 2021 and Spring 2025, liberal arts students comprised 49% of all Guarantee enrollees (n = 2135). The bar chart below shows the percentage of liberal arts majors by state since the program's inception.

Liberal Arts Share of Students by State Since Inception



A year-over-year breakdown of liberal arts majors is displayed below with upward trends in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Connecticut remained the highest among the three states at 63%, a slight decrease from the previous year's liberal arts participation.

Liberal Arts Share Rises in AY 2024-25



The table below summarizes the most common majors among Guarantee students by state, along with the percentage of students enrolled in each field.

Top Enrolled Majors		% of Guarantee Students Enrolled
Connecticut		
Business, Management, Marketing, etc.		15%
Security and Protective Services		14%
Visual & Performing Arts		12%
Massachusetts		
Health Professions & Related Programs		23%
Psychology		12%
Public Administration and Social Service Professions		12%
New Hampshire		
Health Professions & Related Programs		21%
Engineering & Related Technologies		12%
Business, Management, Marketing, etc.		11%
Rhode Island		
Business, Management, Marketing, etc.		52%
Security and Protective Services		8%
Psychology		7%
Vermont		
Health Professions & Related Programs		52%
Psychology		9%
Business, Management, Marketing, etc.		9%

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A majority of Guarantee students received Pell grants, with 57% (1115/1957 students) identified as Pell recipients. From Spring 2021 through Spring 2025, institutional award amounts totaled \$24.3 million, an increase of nearly \$10 million compared with the prior year's overall total. The following table presents average annual institutional financial aid by state and enrollment intensity, along with the minimum and maximum annual aid amounts received by students.

State	FT Avg Annual Aid (\$)	PT Avg Annual Aid (\$)	Min Aid (\$)	Max Aid (\$)
CT	26841	4023	0	88700
MA	14934	4681	0	75778
NH	6493	0	0	30178
RI	22871	0	0	44112
VT	6020	4187	0	56181

ABOUT THE NEBHE TRANSFER INITIATIVES TEAM

Jessica Park has worked with the New England Board of Higher Education's Transfer Guarantee team as a data analyst since February 2025. In this role, she conducted data cleaning and validation and produced the descriptive statistics that support the development of this report. Her role involves using student-level data to identify enrollment patterns and trends that inform efforts to advance more equitable postsecondary outcomes across New England. She is in her final year at Boston University and is expected to graduate in May 2026 with a BS in Data Science, and she plans to pursue postgraduate education following graduation.

Robert Johnston joined the New England Board of Higher Education in February 2024 and served as the Senior Program Coordinator for Transfer Initiatives until February 2026. In this role, he supported the implementation of the Transfer Guarantee by serving as the primary point of contact for participating institutions. Robert worked closely with institutions across the region to coordinate outreach, manage data collection, and ensure seamless communication. Robert holds a BA in political science from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, with a minor in Sociology. Following the completion of the implementation phase of the Transfer Guarantee, Robert transitioned out of his role at NEBHE.

Sarah Kuczynski joined the New England Board of Higher Education in January 2022 and currently serves as the Director of the New England Prison Education Collaborative (NEPEC) and Transfer Initiatives. In this role, Sarah leads the rollout of regional programs including the New England Transfer Guarantee and the Ascendium-funded project to expand higher education access in New England prisons. Prior to joining NEBHE, Sarah worked in student success at the collegiate and high school level. Sarah holds a BA in English from The George Washington University, a PhD in English from UNC-Chapel Hill, and an EdM in Education Policy and Analysis from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.