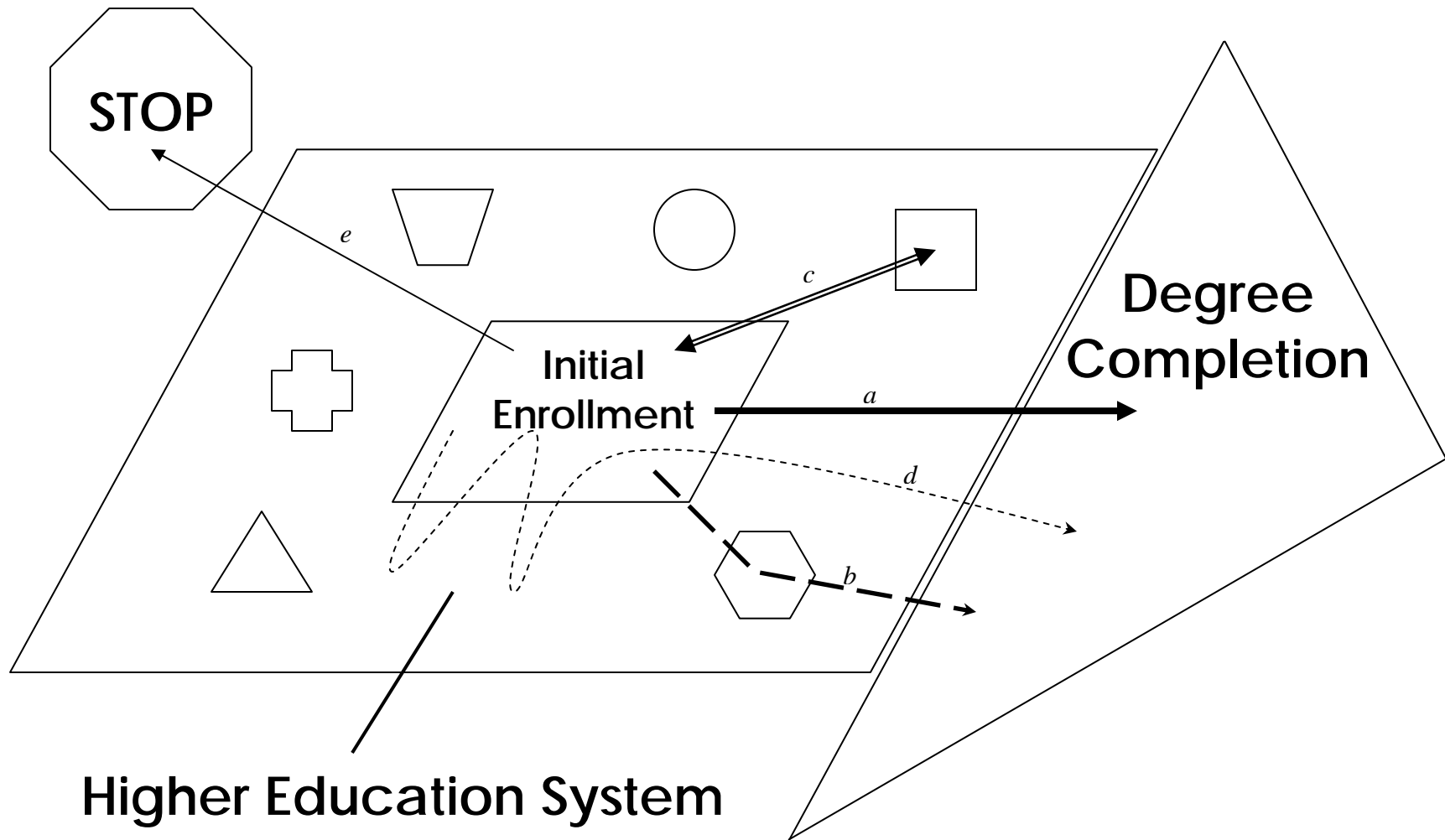# Figure 1. Re-Conceptualizing Undergraduate Retention: Enrollment Mobility and Degree Attainment

Paths Illustrated:
a: a student retained at the institution of initial enrollment and graduating
b: a student who begins at one school, moves on to a second, and then completes their degree
c: (concurrent enrollment) a student who is taking classes at two (or more) institutions at the same time
d: a student who is primarily based out of one "home" institution but takes courses at other colleges to attain their degree
e: the option of stopping at any point in time

Table 1. Undergraduate Enrollment Mobility: A Typology and Definition of Patterns

Large Pattern Type	Pattern & Sub-Pattern Names	Definition

Enrollment Continuity and Interruption

	Traditional Enrollment	Continuous enrollment at a single institution
	2-Yr: Full-time long-term	Continuous full-time enrollment at a single two-year institution
	2-Yr: Part-time long-term	Continuous part-time enrollment at a single two-year institution
	2-yr: Two years and out	Continuous enrollment (usually full-time) at a single two-year institution, followed by transfer
	Interrupted Enrollment/ Stop-Out	Discontinuous enrollment at a single institution
	2-Yr: Long-term decliners	Discontinuous enrollment at a single two-year institution
	Fluid Movement	Continuous enrollment at more than one institution
	Supplemental enrollment	Taking courses for a term or two to supplement or speed up one's academic program at a primary institution
	Concurrent enrollment/ Co-enrollment	Simultaneous enrollment in at least two institutions
	Rebounding enrollment	Alternating taking courses at two or more institutions
	Serial transfer (fluid)	Constantly changing institutions en route to a final destination with continuous enrollment
	Interrupted Movement	Discontinuous enrollment at more than one institution (*Stop-Out* between more than one institution)
	Serial transfer (interrupted)	Constantly changing institutions en route to a final destination with discontinuous enrollment
	2 Yr: One term and out	Appearance at a two-year institution for a single term, which may be part of a larger pattern of interrupted movement between multiple institutions

Enrollment Based on Student Intent

	Trial Enrollment	Experimentation of possibly transferring permanently elsewhere
	2 Yr: One term and out	Appearance at a two-year institution for a single term, which may be for the purpose of checking out an institution
	Special Program Enrollment	Having a primary institution, but taking courses at another that offers a unique program
	Consolidated Enrollment	Taking a large proportion of degree requirements for a primary institution from at least one other institution
	Independent Enrollment	Taking courses unrelated to a degree program that do not transfer to another institution

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Enrollment Patterns at Two-Year Institutions Only

Two-Year Degree Attainment	A group persistently oriented toward the intermediate occupational credentials awarded by community colleges that establishes a path of attainment
Stop Before Two-Year Degree Attainment	A group with significantly weaker secondary school preparation that struggles to a modicum of credits in the community college, then stops
Long-term decliners	Enrollment in at least one two-year institution over several academic terms with decreasing momentum towards a degree
Immediately Disappear	A group that basically disappears on entry to the community college
2 Yr: One term and out	Appearance at a two-year institution for a single term long enough to be counted for FTE purposes, but stops or drops out
Homeowners	Have earned 30 or more units at community college with 60 percent or more of total units from there
Tenants	Have less than 60 percent of total units from the community college
Visitors	Start in community college and earn 1-29 units there; this group tends to have higher levels of academic preparation, degree aspirations, transfers and baccalaureate attainment

Enrollment Between Two and/or Four-Year Institutions

Four-to-Four Year Transfer	Unidirectional transfer from a four-year to another four-year institution
Vertical Transfer	Unidirectional transfer from a two-year to a four-year institution
Reverse Transfer	
Temporary reverse transfer/ Four-year-drop-ins	Has a primary four-year institution and takes courses at a two-year institution
Undergraduate reverse transfers/ Swirling	Started college at a four-year institution, and has semi-permanently transferred to the community college
With a Bachelor's degree	Students who have a Bachelor's degree that take courses at a two-year college

Enrollment mobility patterns based upon Adelman (2005), Cohen & Brawer (2008, 2009), DesJardis, et al. (2002), Goldrik-Rab (2006), Johnson (2006), Li (2010), McCormick & Carroll (1997), McCormick (2003), Peter & Cataldi (2005), Townsend (1999, 2001), Quinley & Quinley (1999), and Yang (2009). These patterns are not all mutually exclusive, as students may exhibit various patterns simultaneously.

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