

Improving Latino College Completion: Promising Policy & Practices



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CALIFORNIA ACCELERATION PROJECT



Supporting California's 112 Community Colleges To Redesign their English and Math Curricula And Increase Student Completion

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Increasing Completion: It Starts at the Front Door



When students arrive at the “open doors” of community colleges and are assigned to remedial coursework, they have very low rates of completing college-level English and Math. Without completing these early requirements, they are ineligible for longer-term goals (transfer, degrees).

California-Wide Data

143,587 students from all CA community colleges



Students' initial enrollment in remedial sequence	% of students who successfully complete transfer-level course in subject
Math	
1 Level Below College	35%
2 Levels Below College	15%
3 Levels or More Below College	6%

Source: Basic Skills Cohort Tracker, Data Mart CCCCCO.

Fall 2009-Spring 2012. Includes repeats.

http://datamart.cccco.edu/Outcomes/BasicSkills_Cohort_Tracker.aspx

Disproportionate Impact



More than half of Black and Latino students in California community colleges are placed 3-4 levels below college math:

Black students:	61%
Latino students:	53%
White students:	34%
Asian students:	32%

Perry, M.; Bahr, P.R.; Rosin, M.; & Woodward, K.M. (2010). Course-taking patterns, policies, and practices in developmental education in the California Community Colleges. Mountain View, CA: EdSource.

Promising Innovation: Redesigned Accelerated Remedial Pathways



- **New pre-statistics courses for students in majors that are not algebra intensive (non-STEM):**
 - Replaces 2-4 semesters of traditional algebra sequence.
 - Addresses the misalignment between the algebra sequence and what is needed for success in college-level statistics.
 - Piloted by 16 colleges in the California Acceleration Project.
 - Similar to national work by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (Statway) and the statistics pathway reform led by Uri Treisman in the state of Texas.

Early Data: Dramatic Increase in Completion of College Math



Colleges Participating in the California Acceleration Project

	<u>Traditional Algebra Path</u> Student completion of any transferable math course (in 3 years)	<u>Pre-Statistics Path</u> Student completion of transferable statistics course (in 1 year)
National Data	20%	N/A
Los Medanos College	21%	60% (71 of 119)
City College San Francisco	17-19%	37% (30 of 81)
Cuyamaca College	20%	81% (22 of 27)
College of the Canyons (PALS: Pre-stat and stats in one semester)	12-16%	78% (39 of 50)

Taking Innovation to Scale: Support



Through the Basic Skills Initiative, the legislature has funded the spread of this innovation across the state's 112 community colleges.

- 3CSN, which leads the BSI professional development effort, provides training for faculty to develop and teach new accelerated models.
- The initiative is focused on evidence-based practices that increase student equity and success. It is structurally separate from the statewide Academic Senate and therefore insulated from faculty political opposition to accelerated pathway reform.

Taking Innovation to Scale: Threat



Will UC and CSU award transfer credit for statistics courses with alternative remedial preparation?

- Current policy requires all college math courses to have a pre-requisite of intermediate algebra, regardless of its relevance to success in the course.
- Community colleges need the flexibility to design better aligned, more effective pre-requisites.
- A lynchpin issue: the outcome will either shackle community colleges to the current remedial system or clear the path for innovations that increase student completion and reduce equity gaps for Latino and Black students.

Further Resources



- *Sacramento Bee* Op-Ed on Threats to Statistics Pathway Reform

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/11/10/4974786/new-approach-to-remedial-math.html>

- Article about the spread of accelerated English and math across California, *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning*

<http://cap.3csn.org/2012/06/14/cap-in-national-magazine/>

- Website of the California Acceleration Project

<http://cap.3csn.org>