



Research Brief



Successful Completion of Gatekeeper Courses

Office of Planning, Research, and Effectiveness
 (http://www.accd.edu/spc)

Achieving the Dream (AtD) Initiative

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"Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count" is a multi-year initiative funded by the Lumina Foundation for Education that addresses the challenge of providing low income students and students of color with opportunities for academic success. There are five AtD student outcome indicators: (1) Successful completion of remedial courses and progression to college-level courses; (2) Enrollment and successful completion of college-level "gatekeeper" courses; (3) Productive grades (C or higher) in all courses; (4) Semester to semester persistence; and (5) Graduation. All colleges of the Alamo Community College District participate in this initiative to cultivate and promote a culture of evidence, accountability, equity, and excellence in support of the student outcomes.

Feedback? Questions? Contact Dr. Maritha Burmeister at burmistr@accd.edu, (210) 531-3369.

Introduction

The focus of this brief will be to assess the successful completion of gatekeeper math and English courses by students' ethnicity and Pell Grant status.

Other students are too small to make any definitive conclusions regarding successful completion rates. Also, Fall 2003 Pell students outperformed all Fall 2002 students and Fall 2003 non-Pell students.

Methodology

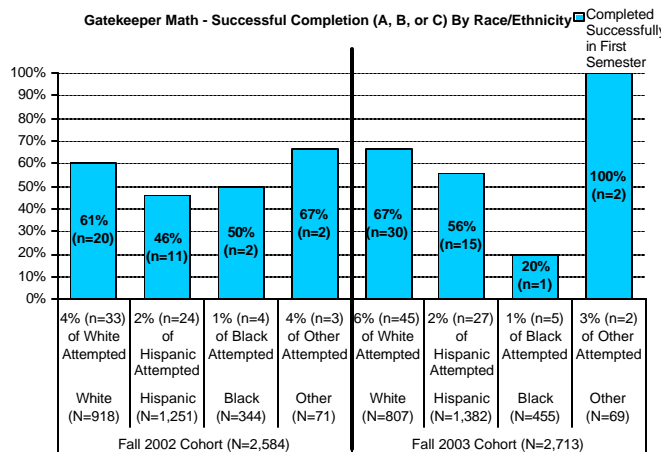
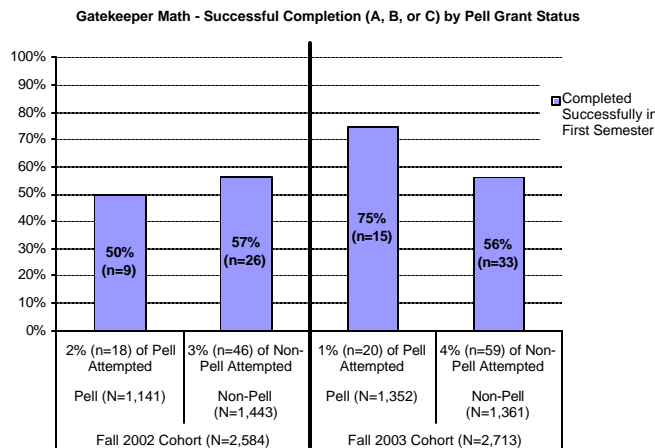
This initiative will track Fall semester student cohorts to understand what levels of success students achieve in Gatekeeper coursework with a focus on success by each ethnic group and the Pell Grant status of each ethnic group. Collection of historical data for the Fall 2002 and Fall 2003 cohorts has been completed. Included in each cohort are students entering St. Philip's College in the Fall terms, regardless of their status as full-time, part-time, transferred, entering as first-time degree or certificate seeking.

Gatekeeper Courses

The charts shown below display the successful completion rates (grade of A, B, or C) of the cohort students in each of the two courses: Math 1314 and English 1301. The data are sub-grouped by cohort year and ethnicity, and each course is tracked by Pell grant status.

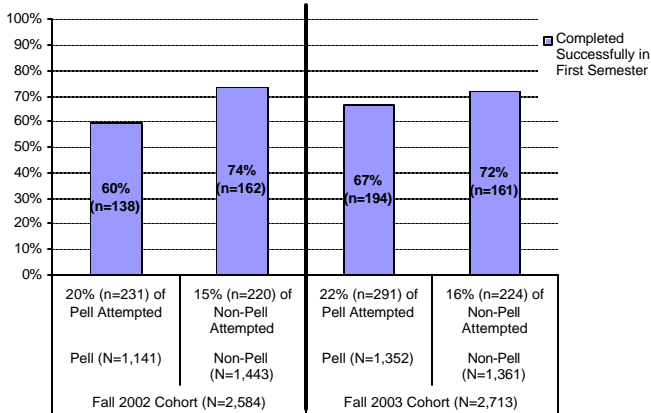
Results-Gatekeeper Math

The two proceeding graphs show the successful completion rates for the cohort students in the Gatekeeper Math 1314. Note that only 1% to 6% of students of any Pell/ethnic combination attempted the Gatekeeper math course. Amongst White students, 61% to 67% passed the course, while the range for Hispanic students was 46% to 56% and Black students ranged from 20% to 50%. Noted also is that the success rate of non-Pell students remained the same in both cohort groups. The numbers of Black students and



Results-Gatekeeper English

Gatekeeper English - Successful Completion (A, B, or C) by Pell Grant Status

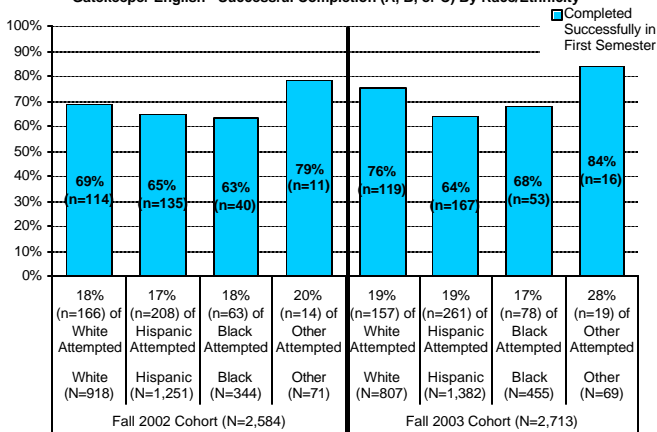


The two preceding graphs show the successful completion rates for the cohort students in the Gatekeeper English 1301. Anywhere from 16% to 28% of students of any Pell/ethnic combination attempted the Gatekeeper English course. Success for Pell students ranged from 60 to 67% while success for non-Pell students ranged from 72% to 74%. When comparing the groups by ethnicity, White and Other students outperformed Hispanic and Black students. The success rates of Hispanic and Black students varied slightly from each other.

Summary

Overall, the success rates of both courses is low. Despite Pell status or ethnicity, the combined success rate for both cohorts in Gatekeeper Math is 50.3% and in Gatekeeper English, 67.8%. There appears to be slight differences in success in comparing Pell students to non-Pell recipients who enroll in Gatekeeper English. Gatekeeper English non-Pell students seem to perform better than Pell students. In Gatekeeper Math, Fall 2003 Pell students outperformed all Fall 2002 students and Fall 2003 non-Pell students.

Gatekeeper English - Successful Completion (A, B, or C) By Race/Ethnicity



Stay tuned

While the focus of this brief was on Gatekeeper courses Math 1314 and English 1301, Achieving the Dream allows for institutions to define other courses as "gatekeepers". Based on historical data, SPC will be reviewing cohort data for Biology 1408, Biology 2401, Government 2306 and History 1301. This information will be made available at a later date.