Referral, Enrollment, and Completion In Developmental Education Sequences In Community Colleges

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Methodology

- 256,672 incoming students in the 2003 and 2004 ATD cohorts followed through three academic years
- Variable indicates whether student was referred to developmental education, and if so, to which level
- Focus on math and reading only
Developmental Education Referrals for Math

Math - Full Sample

- Not referred: 41%
- 1 level below: 24%
- 2 levels below: 16%
- 3+ levels below: 19%
In-Order Course Completion and Enrollment for Those Referred to Lowest Level of Math

- Referred to Level 3+ (N=4682)
  - Enroll (82%)
  - Not enrolled (18%)

- 3+ levels below
  - Enroll (41%)
    - Pass (57%)
      - Not enrolled (16%)
      - Not completed (25%)
    - Not enrolled (7%)
  - Enroll (22%)
    - Pass (29%)
      - Not enrolled (7%)
      - Not completed (12%)
  - Not enrolled (16%)

- Completed (16%)
- Not completed (6%)
Student Progression by Enrollment in Math

![Graph showing student progression by enrollment in Math](image-url)
Gatekeeper Progression of Those Who Completed Developmental Education in Math

**College Algebra**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referred to</th>
<th>Not enrolled</th>
<th>Enrolled, but not passed</th>
<th>Passed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 level below</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 levels below</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3+ levels below</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Developmental Education Referrals for Reading

- Not referred: 67%
- 1 level below: 23%
- 2 levels below: 7%
- 3+ levels below: 3%

Pie chart showing the distribution of referrals based on reading levels.
In-Order Course Completion and Enrollment for Those Referred to Lowest Level of Reading

- Not enrolled (31%)
  - 3+ levels below
    - Enroll
    - Pass
    - Not enrolled (17%)
    - Not completed (13%)
  - Enroll
  - Pass
  - Not enrolled (10%)
  - Not completed (4%)
- Not completed (13%)
- Completed (22%)
  - 1 level below
    - Enroll
    - Not enrolled (4%)
    - Not completed (4%)

Referred to Level 3+ (N=7987)
Student Progression by Enrollment in Reading

**Reading**

- **Total**
  - Never enrolled: 42%
  - Not re-enrolled: 5%
  - Not completed: 15%
  - Completed: 44%

- **1 level below**
  - Never enrolled: 48%
  - Not re-enrolled: 13%
  - Not completed: 21%
  - Completed: 48%

- **2 levels below**
  - Never enrolled: 28%
  - Not re-enrolled: 15%
  - Not completed: 21%
  - Completed: 36%

- **3 levels below**
  - Never enrolled: 31%
  - Not re-enrolled: 22%
  - Not completed: 21%
  - Completed: 22%

*Legend:*
- Blue: Never enrolled
- Yellow: Not re-enrolled
- Red: Not completed
- Light blue: Completed
Gatekeeper Progression of Those Who Completed Developmental Education in Reading

![Gatekeeper Progression Chart]

**College English**

- **Total**
  - Not enrolled: 27%
  - Enrolled, but not passed: 18%
  - Passed: 55%

- **1 level below**
  - Not enrolled: 25%
  - Enrolled, but not passed: 18%
  - Passed: 56%

- **2 levels below**
  - Not enrolled: 32%
  - Enrolled, but not passed: 17%
  - Passed: 52%

- **3+ levels below**
  - Not enrolled: 29%
  - Enrolled, but not passed: 16%
  - Passed: 55%

Legend:
- Not enrolled
- Enrolled, but not passed
- Passed
Conclusions and Policy Recommendations

- Colleges lose developmental students early in the sequence
- More students leave because they do not enroll than because they fail
- Strengthen early experience of community college students
- Combine levels of instruction into one, longer course
INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION?

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- **CCRC: Referral, Enrollment, and Completion of Developmental Education**
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- **MDRC: Promising Instructional Reforms in Developmental Education**
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