Innovation in Urban Community Colleges: Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) and CUNY Start

Learner Centered Institutions: The Future of Higher Education
New England Board of Higher Education Conference
Boston, MA
October 26, 2015
ASAP CORE ELEMENTS

- **Financial Resources**
  - Tuition waivers
    - For students in receipt of FA with gap between tuition/fees and award
  - Free use of textbooks
  - NYC Transit Metrocards

- **Structured Pathways**
  - Consolidated full-time course schedules
  - First-year blocked courses
  - Immediate/continuous developmental course taking
  - Winter and summer courses

- **Comprehensive Supports**
  - High-touch advisement (individual and group)
  - Embedded career development
  - Academic support services
  - ASAP Summer Institute
ASAP PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

Colleges:
- Local program management
- Recruitment and direct services to students
- Monitoring student progress/engagement
- Campus relationships and integration

CUNY OAA:
- Overall program administration
- Program-wide resources
- Evaluation/data management
- External partnerships
- Citywide outreach
ASAP Enrollments
AY 2008/09--2015/16

Fall 2009: Began to admit developmental education students

Fall 2010: Funding 'baselined' by City

Fall 2011: First expansion began

Fall 2015: Second expansion begins

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 7,000 8,000

909 795 1,250 1,286 2,204 3,205 4,238 7,500
Average Graduation Rates of ASAP and Comparison Group Students:
Fall 2007-Fall 2012 Cohorts

Source: CUNY Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, CUNY ASAP participating colleges, and National Student Clearinghouse.
October 9, 2014
ASAP GROWTH & REPLICATION

- Expand to 25,000 students by 2018/19 supported by the City and State ($80m)
- ASAP pilot in baccalaureate setting
- Replication demonstration project in Ohio at three community colleges led by MDRC
What CUNY Start Offers

- Founded in 2009 to prepare students with significant developmental needs
  - 70% enter with three needs
  - 30% enter with two needs

- Students delay matriculation for one semester

- 15-18 week program of intensive instruction with two opportunities to retest (or take the developmental math exit exam)

- $75 student fee covers all costs; no financial aid drawdown

- Two scheduling options:
  - *Full-time Program*: 25 hours/week (Reading/Writing *and* Math)
  - *Afternoon/PM Program*: 12 hours/week (Reading/Writing *or* Math)
CUNY Start Program Model

- Structured curricula in reading/writing, math and advisement designed by master teachers/curriculum developers from CUNY Adult/Continuing Education

- Pedagogy that builds conceptual understandings and makes student an active learner

- Full-semester of teacher/advisor training and ongoing professional development

- Integrated supports:
  - In-class tutors
  - Weekly college success seminar
  - Individual advisement
CUNY START PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

Enrollment 2015/16: 3,900 students
Number of Developmental Education Needs Before and After CUNY Start
Fall 2009 through Fall 2014 Full-time Cohorts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Needs</th>
<th>Pre-CUNY Start</th>
<th>Post-CUNY Start</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>6% (228)</td>
<td>6% (228)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One</td>
<td>32% (1,322)</td>
<td>30% (1,273)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two</td>
<td>68% (2,868)</td>
<td>51% (2,128)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three</td>
<td>0% (0)</td>
<td>14% (578)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Office of Research, Evaluation and Program Support
Summer Start Math Pilot

- 8-week intensive math program 2014 and 2015 (funded by Petrie Foundation)
- Condensed version of CUNY Start math curriculum
- Targeted students with significant developmental math needs only
- Piloted at three colleges (BMCC, Hostos, and Guttman)

**Preliminary 2015 Findings:**

- 97% completion rate
- 90% of all enrolled students became fully skills proficient in math

- Slated for major expansion with funding from City over next four years (4,000 by 2018/19)