Reshaping the College Transition: Improving the High School to College Pathway

March 2017
Bridging the Gap
Bloomington, IL

Elisabeth Barnett, PhD
Community College Research Center

- Based at Teachers College, Columbia University
- Research organization, founded in 1996
- Focused on assessment, completion, pathways, college readiness, outcomes, evaluation of models and initiatives
- Lead organization in three USDOE national centers

WEBSITE: http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/
Today’s presentation

Research on improving the high school to college pathway- an evidence based approach

Discussion of selected approaches

DURING HIGH SCHOOL

• Summer bridges
• Early assessment and transition courses
• Dual enrollment

IN COLLEGE

• Improving assessment
• Guided pathways
Many students are not ready for college (NCES, 2013)

Students needing 1+ remedial course

- Community colleges: 68%
- Open access 4 year colleges: 40%
Students needing remediation are less likely to graduate college

(Attewell, Lavin, Domina, and Levey, 2006)
SOLUTIONS?

• PROCESSES, POLICIES—Ways to structure the student experience to achieve better outcomes.

• PROGRAMS—
  • Specified activities offered to selected students to achieve better outcomes.
Building Student Momentum from High School Into College

A report that builds on:
• Prior CCRC work on momentum points
• A belief in the power of K-12 and higher education partnerships
• Research evidence on what works in the high school to college transition.
Promoting College Readiness

• Students need to graduate high school college-ready in three domains

• Every student needs work in each of these areas. This creates a “momentum chain.”

• Academic knowledge and skills

• Non-cognitive skills

• College cultural capital
A Momentum Chain System

- Student should accumulate both **experiences** and **attainments** that create a momentum chain.

- *Every* student is monitored using a tool like this.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPERIENCES AND ATTAINMENTS THAT PROVIDE MOMENTUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOMENTUM POINTS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participating in a rigorous core curriculum in high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking college-level courses, specifically dual enrollment, AP, and/or IB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math and English foundational knowledge at the level required for placement in college-level, credit-bearing courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earning a good high school GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accruing six college credits during high school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to establish personal goals and life direction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities to develop and strengthen a range of noncognitive skills predictive of college success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showing readiness on a noncognitive assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to college norms and expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validation by high school and college faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completing one or more college applications and the FAFSA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commitment (submission of paperwork) to attend a college in the fall following graduation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Academic knowledge and skills

- Participating in a rigorous core curriculum (E)
- Taking college-level courses – dual enrollment, AP, IB (E)
- College ready Math and English (A)
- Earning a good high school GPA (A)
- Accruing six college credits in high school (A)
Non-cognitive skills

• Opportunities to establish personal goals (E)
• Opportunities to develop non-cognitive skills (E)
• Good attendance (A)
• Showing readiness on a non-cognitive assessment (A)
College cultural capital

- Exposure to college norms and expectations (E)
- Validation by high school and college faculty (E)
- Completing one or more college applications and the FAFSA (A)
- Submission of paperwork to attend a college (A)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Knowledge and Skills</th>
<th>Momentum points</th>
<th>Experience or attainment?</th>
<th>No/in progress/yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participating in a rigorous core curriculum in high school</td>
<td>Experience</td>
<td>N     IP     Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Taking college-level courses, specifically dual enrollment, AP, and/or IB</td>
<td>Experience</td>
<td>N     IP     Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Math and English foundational knowledge at the level required for placement in college-level, credit-bearing courses</td>
<td>Attainment</td>
<td>N     IP     Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Earning a good high school GPA</td>
<td>Attainment</td>
<td>N     IP     Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accruing six college credits during high school</td>
<td>Attainment</td>
<td>N     IP     Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affective/Noncognitive Skills</td>
<td>Opportunities to establish personal goals and life direction</td>
<td>Experience</td>
<td>N     IP     Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>College Capital</td>
<td>Exposure to college norms and expectations</td>
<td>Experience</td>
<td>N     IP     Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Validation by faculty</td>
<td>Experience</td>
<td>N     IP     Y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Developmental Summer Bridge Programs
Developmental Summer Bridge Study (2009-12)

- DSBs were implemented by 8 colleges in Texas
- Research was done by NCPR
  - Implementation study
  - Random assignment study of student outcomes
  - Cost study
Programs in the DSB Study (2009)

- Sponsored by and located at a college
- Offered to recent high school graduates
- Four to five week interventions (64 - 100 hours)
- Accelerated instruction in developmental math, English, and/or reading
- Academic and student services support
- “College knowledge” component
- Student stipend of up to $400 for completers.
## 2009 DSB Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Started</th>
<th>Finished</th>
<th>% done of starters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star - Cyfair</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lone Star - Kingwood</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Antonio</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Philips</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Texas</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMIU</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>799</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>654</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact Findings

Texas Developmental Summer Bridge programs:

• Did not impact college enrollment or persistence (cumulative semesters enrolled).

• Did not impact credits earned over 2 years.

• Accelerated students’ initial progress through college-level math and writing in the first year.
Students passing college-level math

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Program Group</th>
<th>Control Group</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2009</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2010</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>22.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2010</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2010</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2011</td>
<td>46.5</td>
<td>43.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students passing college level writing

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program Group</th>
<th>Control Group</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2009</td>
<td>32.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2010</td>
<td>63.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2010</td>
<td>64.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2010</td>
<td>69.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2011</td>
<td>71.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Significant difference
** Highly significant difference
Summary of 2009 Program Costs

• Total costs ranged from $62,633 to $296,033 per site.

• Average costs ranged from $840 to $2,349 per participant; the average across 8 sites was $1,319.
Thoughts on summer bridge courses

• Well designed bridge courses are a lot of work, expensive, and hard to make appealing to students.

• Bridge courses can increase students’ preparation for college math and English courses.
Early College Readiness Assessments and Transition Courses
Reshaping the College Transition Research

*Early college readiness assessments*: Assessments administered no later than the 11th grade that measure students’ readiness to successfully perform entry-level, credit-bearing postsecondary work.

*Transition curricula*: Courses, learning modules, or online tutorials developed jointly by secondary and postsecondary faculty and offered no later than 12th grade to students at risk of being placed into remedial math or English in college.
Potential of early college readiness assessments

Theory:

Knowledge is power. Students and schools can take action to help students become college ready by graduation.

Evidence:

Participation in California’s early assessment (EAP) reduced students’ probability of taking remedial courses in college by 6.1 percent in English and by 4.3 percent in math.

Howell, Kurlaender, and Grodsky (2010)
Potential of transition courses

Theory:
A full year course in math or English can be offered to students in the 12th grade...
• At no extra cost
• Offering high school credit
• Meeting colleges’ criteria for college readiness.
• And some include a mechanism for placing out of developmental education.

Evidence:
Promising descriptive results from high schools and colleges.
Emerging more rigorous research results.
50-state scan
(Barnett et al, 2013)

States with ECRA

States with Transition Curricula
New York

At Home in College (AHC):

- Designed and administered by CUNY’s Collaborative Programs
- Early assessment: Regents exams
- Transition courses in English and math, with College Knowledge component
- 62 participating high schools (1,903 students)
Difference In Differences Design
Outcomes Estimated:

**Primary**
(all within one year)
- College readiness at college entry in math/English
- Passing gatekeeper course in math/English

**Secondary**
(all within one year)
- College enrollment
- College credits earned
- Developmental education credits earned
- Attempted a gatekeeper course in math/English
Impact of At Home in College - Math

- Passed gatekeeper w/i 1 year: 1.0%
- College-ready upon entry: 2.0%
- Enroll in college w/i 1 year: 2.0%
- Attempted gatekeeper w/i 1 year: 1.0%

- College-level credits earned w/i 1 year: 1.23
- Developmental credits earned w/i 1 year: 0.9
Impact of At Home in College - English

Passed gatekeeper w/i 1 year: 2.0%
College-ready upon entry: -3.0%
Enroll in college w/i 1 year: 2.0%
Attempted gatekeeper w/i 1 year: 2.0%

College-level credits earned w/i 1 year: 1.35
Developmental credits earned w/i 1 year: 0.3

* Significant difference
Seamless Alignment and Integrated Learning Support (SAILS):

- Community college initiated and supported; state funded
- Student placement based on ACT score in 11th grade
- 5 online math modules that mirror the community college curriculum
-Completers place out of college deved; some take dual credit math
SAILS - results

From Fay, 2016

Study of SAILS schools where high school and college students used the same curriculum:

- College students completers: 47–65%
- High school completers: 79–97%

From Boatman, 2016

- Participating in the SAILS program appears to positively impact:
  - high school graduation
  - enrollment in college.
- The effects are driven largely by 2-year college enrollment.
Thoughts on transition courses

- The results so far are positive but underwhelming.
- Courses are informed by diverse views of college readiness.
- Courses are “owned” to different degrees by K-12 and higher education.
- Mechanisms that place students as college ready on course completion are helpful.
Dual Enrollment
What is dual credit?

**Dual credit:** Students receive both high school and college credit for a college class successfully completed.

**Dual enrollment:** Students are concurrently enrolled in high school and college. They may or may not receive high school credit for college courses completed.
Why the excitement?

- ↑ academic rigor in HS (senioritis)
- ↑ academic HS options and electives
- ↑ students who see themselves as “college material”
- ↑ recruitment of students

- ↓ college costs- families and state
- ↓ time to degree (college)
Findings from Florida
(Karp et al, 2007)

Dual enrollment participation positively related to:
• Students’ likelihood of earning a HS diploma (↑4.3%)  
• Enrolling in college (↑ 7.7%)  
• Persistence to the second semester of college  
• Higher GPAs one year after HS graduation (↑.21)  
• Remaining enrolled in college 2 years after HS  
• More credits earned 3 years after HS graduation (↑15.1)

Male and low-income students benefited more from dual enrollment participation than their peers
Findings:
• Dual enrollment students are 8 percentage points more likely to earn a postsecondary degree; 7 percentage points more likely to earn a BA.
• First generation students are especially likely to benefit.
• Students who earn at least 6 college credits are more likely to benefit.

National Research (An, 2012)
Early College High Schools

• Dual enrollment on steroids?
• A school offering a combined high school and college curriculum with lots of student supports.
• There are also EC programs.

Pioneers:
• Middle College National Consortium - 1974
• Bard High School Early College (Simons Rock) – 1970s

National movement:
• Early College High School Initiative 2002-2012
  • Funder: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others
AIR/SRI Study (2013)

- More likely to graduate from high school. 86% vs. 81%
- More likely to enroll in college. 80% vs. 71%
- More likely to earn a college degree in 2 years.

- The impact of did not differ significantly based on gender, race/ethnicity, family income, first-generation college-going status, or pre-high school achievement.
Multiple Measures for Assessment and Placement
What’s at stake

• Participation in developmental education is associated with poorer student outcomes.
• Developmental education is expensive.
• Only students who really need developmental education courses should take them.
• Current placement systems are flawed.
# Assessment and Placement Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Ability</th>
<th>Placement According to Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developmental</td>
<td>Developmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Level</td>
<td>Under-placed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Over-placed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Developmental: English – 5%, Math – 6%
- Under-placed: English – 29%, Math – 18%
- Over-placed: No specific percentages provided.
Predictors of Success: SUNY College B

ENGLISH

- GPA only: 3.8%
- Test only: 1.0%
- GPA + test: 4.8%
- Full model: 7.5%

MATH

- GPA only: 9.9%
- Test only: 2.7%
- GPA + test: 12.0%
- Full model: 14.5%
Multiple measures – some approaches

- Exempt students from testing (Ohio)
- Hierarchy of measures (North Carolina)
- Review panel looks at a range of measures (Wisconsin)
- Decision rules/bands (Minnesota)
- Use of an algorithm (NY, California)
Guided Pathways
Research on choices and pathways

- Recent work in psychology, marketing, and behavioral economics: more choice is not always better.
- Students undertake surprisingly minimal search efforts regarding educational options…they often resort to trial and error.
- Students end up taking courses without a clear plan, especially if they are undeclared or in liberal arts.
- Students take courses that aren’t required to complete a credential.

(Scott Clayton, 2011)
Guided Pathways Defined
(Johnstone, 2015)

These highly structured student experiences encourage completion by:
• Establishing clear roadmaps to students’ end goals
• Incorporating intake processes that help students clarify goals for college and careers
• Offering on-ramps to programs of study designed to facilitate access for students with developmental needs
• Embedding advising, progress tracking, feedback, and support throughout a student’s educational journey.

(Jenkins & Cho, 2014; Bailey, Jaggars, & Jenkins, 2015)
What are your career and life goals?
A degree or certificate from CCC is your ticket to a rewarding career – either right after graduation, or after a successful transfer to a four-year university. We have the resources to get you there, but you have to make some choices about your path.

Know What You Want

The City Colleges of Chicago offers well over 100 degree and certificate programs. That’s a lot of choices! To narrow down your options, 1) choose one of our Ten Focus Areas. Your College Advisor can give you tools and ask you the right questions to help you make your decision. Once you have chosen a focus area, you should consult with your College Advisor to 2) decide if you plan to transfer to a four-year school. With this information, you and your advisor can determine the degree or certificate program that works best for you!

Advanced Manufacturing  Healthcare  Information Technology
Business & Professional Services  Technology & Drafting  Liberal Arts
Culinary Arts & Hospitality  Life & Physical Sciences  Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics
Education & Human Services

Consider that in 2018, 80% of jobs in Illinois will fall under College to Careers focus areas. The College to Careers (C2C) initiative makes sure that we are training people to fill these positions. C2C also partners with potential employers and transfer institutions to ensure students make smooth transitions to meet their goals.

Set An Appointment With Your Advisor

Your College Advisor is your biggest ally in choosing your path at City Colleges. It is important that you meet with them frequently. Use the program GradesFirst to set an appointment.

To Set An Appointment With Your Advisor:
- Go to ccc.gradesfirst.com and log-in with your CCC username and password
- Click on the Calendar tab, and then on “Get Advising” on the right-side of the page
- Your advisor’s calendar will pop up; choose an appointment date and time

GradesFirst
Summary of recommendations

- Prioritize reforms over programs.
  - Look for ways to reach ALL students.
- Seek to use the senior year to:
  - Become ready in math and English
  - Experience college.
  - Choose a meta-major
- Measure what matters.
- Make the education pathway easy to follow.
For more information

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http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu
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We’re also on Facebook and Twitter.

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