COLLEGE MILESTONES
COMPLETION OF GATEKEEPER COURSES: MASSACHUSETTS

Percentage of Massachusetts Community College students completing gatekeeper English/reading and mathematics courses during their first two academic years, by race/ethnicity, age, and Pell grant status: 2006

PELL GRANT RECIPIENTS

RACE/ETHNICITY

AGE
What Is Measured?
Percentage of Massachusetts Community College students enrolled in developmental English/reading and mathematics who completed gatekeeper courses in the same subject within their first two academic years.

Who Is Counted?
Students entering Massachusetts Community Colleges for the first time in fall 2006 who took at least one developmental English/reading and mathematics course in their first year.

What It Tells Us
Some 29 percent of first-time Pell grant students in Massachusetts Community Colleges who took developmental English/reading and mathematics courses in their first year completed corresponding gatekeeper courses during their first two academic years.

Why It’s Important
There is general consensus that timely completion of gatekeeper courses, the lowest-level college-level courses in the core subjects of mathematics, reading, and writing, positively affects student outcomes such as attainment of certificates and degrees and transfer to a four-year institution. Completion of gatekeeper courses fulfills requirements for graduation and transfer as well as prerequisites for more advanced courses in various fields.

ABOUT THE DATA
First-time students: include students with no prior postsecondary experience except for college credits earned during high school or in the summer before enrolling in the fall.

Pell Grant recipient: a student who received a Pell Grant within the first year of entry at a given institution of higher education.

Race/ethnicity: Other includes Asian; American Indian or Alaska Native; and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Racial categories exclude persons of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, who are presented separately.

DATA SOURCE