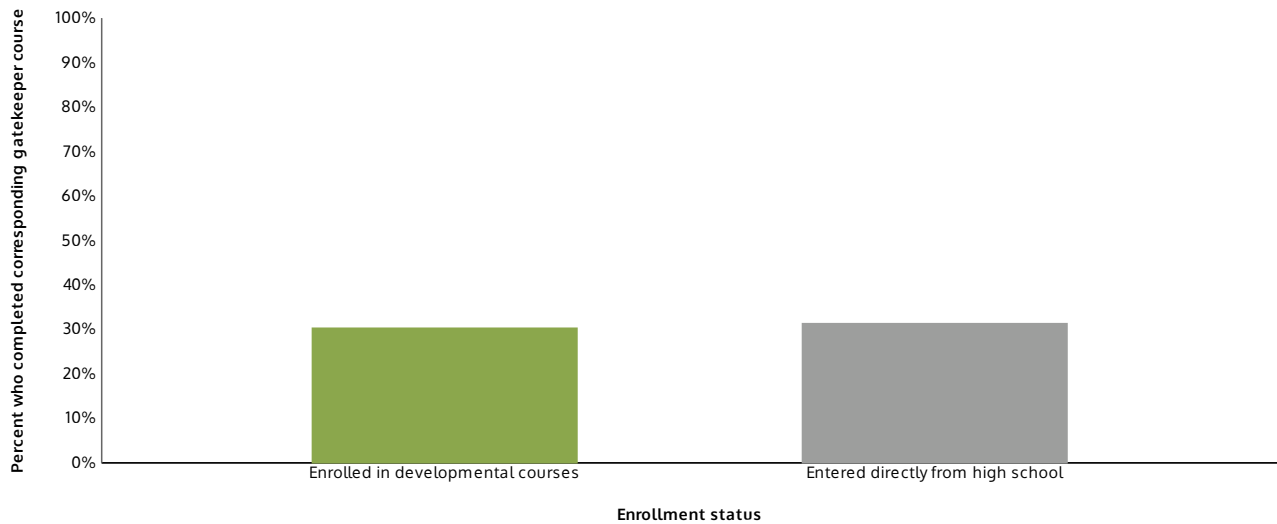


COLLEGE MILESTONES

COMPLETION OF GATEKEEPER COURSES: MASSACHUSETTS

Percentage of Massachusetts Community College students completing gatekeeper courses during their first two academic years



What Is Measured?

Percentage of Massachusetts Community College students enrolled in developmental English/reading, math, or both who completed gatekeeper courses in the same subject or subjects 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 course in their first year

What It Tells Us

Some 30 percent of students in Massachusetts Community Colleges who took developmental courses in their first year completed corresponding gatekeeper courses during their first two academic years. Some 31 percent of students who entered directly from high school completed corresponding gatekeeper courses.

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 (Roksa & Calcagno, 2008, table 4; Horn & Lew, 2007; Offenstein, Moore, & Shulock, 2010, figure 8). 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.

Directly from high school: defined as students age 18 or 19 in states without linked K-12 and postsecondary data systems.

DATA SOURCE

Complete College America. (2011, September). *Time is the enemy*. Washington, DC: Author.

Complete College America. (2011, March). *Common college completion metrics technical guide*. Washington, DC: Author.