COLLEGE MILESTONES
COMPLETION OF GATEKEEPER COURSES: WASHINGTON

**What Is Measured?**
Percentage of Washington 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 Washington 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 9 percent of students in Washington Community Colleges who took developmental courses in their first year completed corresponding gatekeeper courses during their first two academic years. Some 9 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**