Accelerating Throughput

Throughput rates for transfer-level math courses increase significantly after adoption of accelerated math pathways.


Since 2011, Cuyamaca Community College in California has worked to redesign their developmental education courses so that more students, especially students of color, can succeed in transfer-level math courses. In 2016, Cuyamaca replaced its remedial courses with five math pathways and paired the transfer-level math courses with a co-requisite support course.

Cuyamaca's new accelerated math pathways significantly increased the one-year throughput rate for first-time students who were deemed "underprepared" for college-level math. The one-year throughput rate is the proportion of students who complete a transfer-level math course within two semesters or three quarters of first entering the math sequence. The increases were significant for all student groups, especially for students of color. The throughput rate for African Americans was eight times greater than the cohort in the traditional remedial math pathway from the prior year. For Hispanic/Latino students, it was five and a half times greater. This Points of Interest shows the increase in throughput rates for transfer-level math courses following adoption of accelerated math pathways.

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