Increasing Student Supports

Although colleges continue to refer students to developmental education, they are increasing student supports to improve student success.

Students referred to developmental education rarely complete their assigned courses. Despite this, colleges continue to use remedial course sequences for students deemed unprepared for college-level work. Still, many of these same colleges are increasing academic and non-academic supports to ensure students have the supports needed for these courses.

The Center for the Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness (CAPR) conducted a survey of more than 1,000 broad-access two- and four-year colleges in 2016 and found multiple support services in place for developmental education students. A large portion of the community colleges identified tutors or supplemental instructions as the most common academic support provided to students. The most common non-academic support provided at these colleges was a success coach or student success courses. This Points of Interest shows that although colleges continue to refer students to developmental education, they are increasing student supports to improve student success.

For more information, contact the authors of the study or Vilan Odek at vodekar@strongstart.org.

January 22, 2020