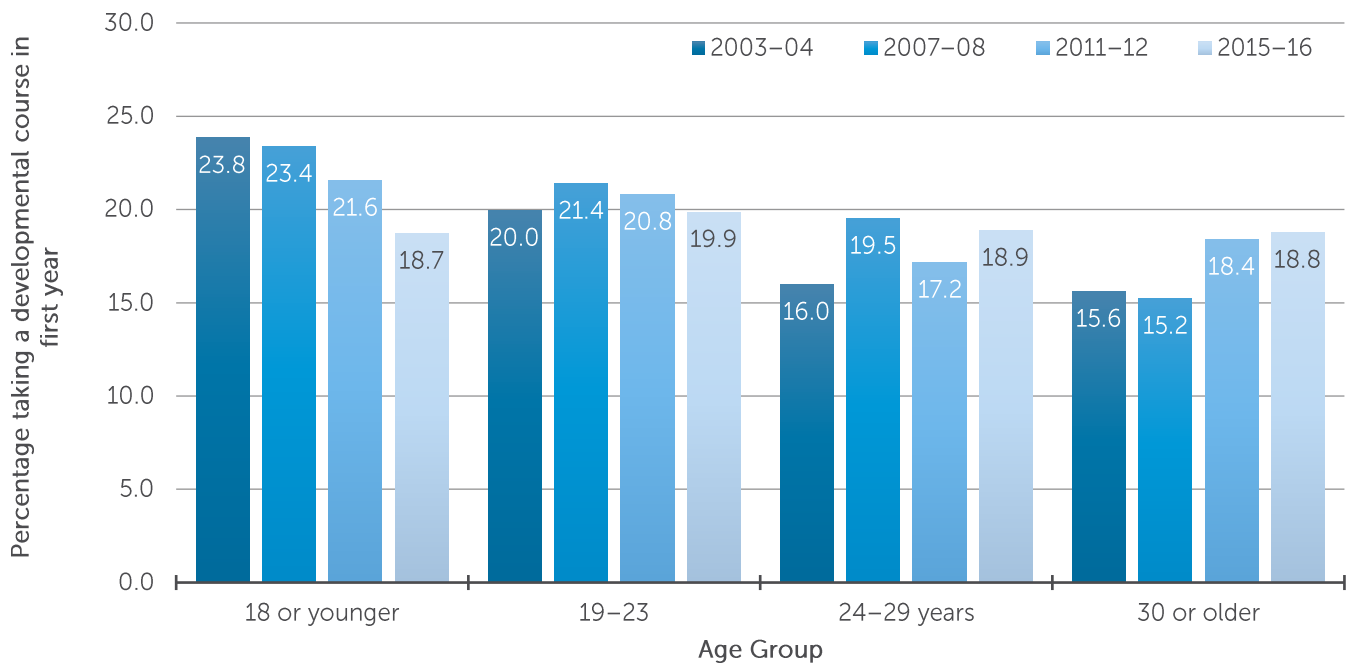


# Age Group Dynamics

*Significant increases in developmental course-taking for first-year students over age 24 and decrease for 18 or younger.*



Source. [NPSAS](#) data analyzed for Strong Start to Finish by Research Triangle Institute.

Notes. The data comes from a nationally representative samples of college students collected by the US Department of Education called the National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey, known colloquially as NPSAS. The legend shows we are looking at a trend over time. This chart depicts the percentage of first-year undergraduates who reported taking remedial courses in the current academic year, by age group for select years. The 19 to 23 age group was the only where there was not a statistically significant difference between 2003-04 and 2015-16.

Throughout their life span, students look to augment their human capital by enrolling in colleges and universities. And when they enroll, or reenroll, students of various ages are placed into courses using policies and practices developed at the institution, system board and/or state laws and regulations. These structures may have disparate impacts.

Nationally representative data for four different cohorts of first-year students suggests that, overtime a smaller proportion of younger students are enrolling in developmental education courses whereas the proportion of older students enrolling in developmental education courses is increasing. This Points of Interest illustrates the significant increases in developmental course-taking for first-year students over age 24 and a decrease for students 18 or younger.

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