

What's Next for Developmental Reform?

Research Agenda of the Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Readiness

Alexander Mayer, MDRC

Elisabeth Barnett, CCRC

Alyssa Ratledge, MDRC

Scope of the Problem

- About 2/3 of community college students take dev-ed courses
- Less than half make it through dev-ed sequences
- Low-income and minority students are over-represented
- Most dev-ed students are unprepared, but many may be under-placed
- Limited systematic research on dev-ed practices, how they are changing, and how they are helping

Organization of the Center

MDRC

CCRC

Descriptive Study of
Developmental
Education

Evaluation of New
Assessment Practices
(RCT in NY)

Evaluation of The New
Mathways Project
(RCT in TX)

Supplemental Studies

Descriptive Study

National Survey and Qualitative Interviews

Alexander Mayer, MDRC

Research Questions

1. **Assessment Practices:** What assessment tools and practices do colleges currently use to assess college-readiness?
2. **Choices:** What factors underlie institutions' choices for particular practices?
3. **Instruction:** What are the major strategies colleges use to teach developmental education?

Research Questions

- 4. Differential Approaches:** Are there different approaches for traditional students compared with nontraditional students?
- 5. Readiness Standards:** Are assessment and instructional practices aligned with criteria such as the Common Core State Standards?
- 6. Open-Door Policy:** Do changes in developmental placement systems limit the traditional open-door or open-access mission of community colleges?

Research Questions

- 7. Faculty Engagement:** Have colleges engaged a significant proportion of the faculty in the reform of developmental education?
- 8. Technological Change:** What is the nature and extent of technology, especially online technology, for developmental education instruction?
- 9. For-Profit Remediation:** Does developmental education differ at for-profit and public institutions?

National Survey of Colleges

- Randomly select nearly 1,700 colleges in 2016
 - Open-access & less-selective (70%+ acceptance) colleges
 - 2-year/4-year and public/private
- Addresses all research questions
 - Emphasizes assessment practices & instruction
- Piloting the survey in 2015

Qualitative Interviews

- At least 40 colleges & 40 systems
 - Interview personnel responsible for developmental policy/programming
- Address all research questions
 - In-depth Semi-structured telephone interviews
- Will be conducted throughout 2015

Contact Us:

Alexander Mayer

alexander.mayer@mdrc.org

Shanna Jaggars

jaggars@tc.edu

Visit us online:

www.postsecondaryreadiness.org

ccrc.tc.columbia.edu

www.mdrc.org

To download presentations, reports, and briefs, and sign-up for news announcements. We're also on Facebook and Twitter.