



INTERVENTION SNAPSHOT

Supporting Postsecondary Success



Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP)¹

Enrolling in college and completing a degree or certificate is one of the primary pathways to economic success. In 2017, median weekly earnings of full-time workers with an associate degree was 17 percent higher than full-time workers with a high school diploma only. Despite the economic advantages of educational attainment, only 32 percent of students enrolled in two-year institutions complete their programs within three years. As a result, several programs have been designed to support student retention and degree completion among college students. One example is the City University of New York's (CUNY's) *Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP)*.

ASAP is a three-year program that is designed to remove barriers to college success and completion for students seeking associate degrees. ASAP offers students financial supports (tuition waivers, free use of textbooks, free public transportation), academic supports (tutoring, early registration), and personal supports (advisors, seminars, blocked or linked courses). ASAP students are required to enroll full time and are encouraged to take any required developmental education courses in the first semester.

This What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) report, part of the WWC's Supporting Postsecondary Success topic area, explores the effects of ASAP on enrollment, credit accumulation, and graduation rates. The WWC identified eight studies of ASAP, and two studies meet WWC standards. The evidence presented in this report includes studies of the impacts of ASAP on community college students, including students who were White, Black, Hispanic, and Asian or Pacific Islander.

Findings on ASAP from two studies that meet WWC standards are shown below. For each outcome reviewed by the WWC, an effectiveness rating, the improvement index, and the number of studies and students that contributed to the findings is presented. The improvement index is a measure of the intervention's effect on an outcome. It can be interpreted as the expected change in percentile rank for an average comparison group student if that student had received the intervention. All findings are based on two studies with 2,397 students.

The WWC found that implementing ASAP:	Study findings		Evidence meeting WWC standards (version 3.0)	
	Effectiveness rating	Improvement index (percentile points)	Number of studies	Number of students
Will likely increase student graduation rates	Positive effects	+17	2	2,397
Will likely increase student enrollment rates	Positive effects	+13	2	2,397
Will likely increase student credit accumulation and persistence rates	Positive effects	+10	2	2,397

Table Note: The improvement index is a measure of the effect of the intervention. The improvement index can be interpreted as the expected change in percentile rank for an average comparison group student if that student had received the intervention. An improvement index of +17 means that the expected percentile rank of the average comparison group student would increase by 17 points if they received ASAP.

FINDINGS ARE BASED ON:

2 studies with **2,397** students in
6 community colleges in New York City and Ohio



STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS:

Gender: **63% female** | Race: **67% minority** | Ethnicity: **22% hispanic** | Children: **23% have children**

What Does ASAP Cost?

The cost of ASAP is reported in one study reviewed. Scrivener et al. (2015) calculated the direct cost per ASAP student at \$14,029 over a three-year period (\$4,676 per year), which includes costs for administration and staffing, student services, course enrollment, and financial supports for students. There are no direct program costs billed to students or parents; however, students must pay for costs normally associated with college attendance that are not covered by the ASAP program.

LEARN MORE



Read more about the ASAP intervention and the studies that are summarized here on the [Intervention Report webpage](#).



Contact the [City University of New York, Accelerated Study in Associate Programs](#) for additional information on implementing ASAP.

¹ This report was revised following a routine WWC internal audit.