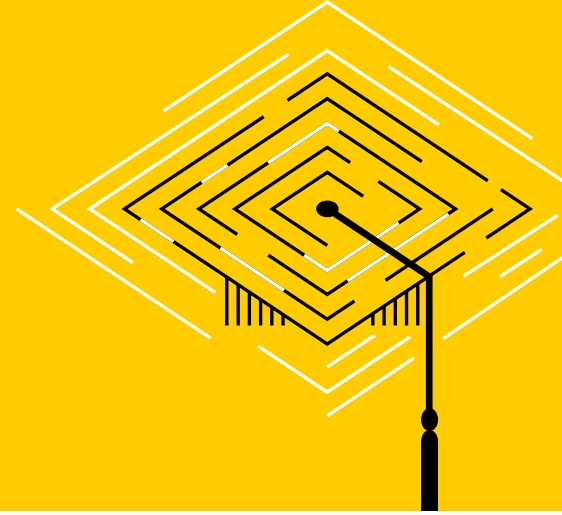


What Works: Improving College Completion

ASAP shows powerful positive effects, and its success is backed by rigorous evaluations and replication efforts.



Identifying what works to improve graduation rates is difficult. Scaling what works is even harder. The City University of New York's (CUNY) Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) is a postsecondary student intervention initiative that has significantly increased graduation rates for CUNY students.ⁱ Now, those successes have been replicated at other postsecondary programs in states serving a diverse population of students, and even adapted to support four-year college students, too.

Proven Results:

- **Doubling Graduation Rates:** The most rigorous evaluations show ASAP doubles graduation rates for participants compared to non-ASAP students and even increases post-graduation earnings.ⁱⁱ
- **Broad Impact:** The ASAP model is proven to benefit a diverse postsecondary population in need of developmental education, from rural to urban students and from younger to older adults.ⁱⁱⁱ

Key Program Components:

- **Academic Rigor and Reliability:** Students enroll in a full course load, summer classes, and developmental education courses. They receive priority enrollment to ensure they're able to take the classes they need.
- **Wraparound Supports:** In exchange for the heavier course load, students receive tuition fee waivers, transportation benefits, and book subsidies.
- **Advisory Services:** Students also receive advisory supports. Advisors are assigned students upon enrollment and stay with them throughout their college career. They meet with students at least twice a month and keep in touch via texting or other accessible communication modes.

Policy Implications:

- **National Model for Success:** ASAP is a proven approach at two- and four-year colleges across the country. Furthermore, ASAP activities are eligible for funding under the federal Postsecondary Student Success Grant (PSSG), which has been funded and received bipartisan support since Fiscal Year 2022.
- **Postsecondary Student Success Act:** While PSSG has received consistent, bipartisan support since FY22, it does not have authorizing legislation. The Postsecondary Student Success Act would authorize PSSG and require at least 20% of grant funds be directed to initiatives that are proven and scalable, like those demonstrated effective by ASAP.

ENDNOTES

ⁱ [The CUNY ASAP/ACE National Replication Story \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

ⁱⁱ [Improving Academic Outcomes at Westchester Community College During the Pandemic | MDRC](https://www.mdrc.org/publications/2020/improving-academic-outcomes-at-westchester-community-college-during-the-pandemic)
[There's a proven fix for an urgent education problem — Congress should embrace it | The Hill](https://www.thehill.com/policy/education/2022/03/23/congress-should-embrace-it/)

ⁱⁱⁱ [Doubling graduation rates fr.pdf \(mdrc.org\)](https://www.mdrc.org/publications/2020/doubling-graduation-rates)

^{iv} [Efforts to replicate the ASAP program spread \(insidehighered.com\)](https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2022/03/23/replicating-asap)

^v [From Degrees to Dollars | MDRC](https://www.mdrc.org/publications/2020/from-degrees-to-dollars)

^{vi} [The CUNY ASAP/ACE National Replication Story \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)