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# **Review and Discussion of the 2019-20 Momentum Monitoring Report**

***Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA)***

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## Review and Discussion of the Momentum Monitoring Report

In October 2017, CUNY formally launched its Academic Momentum Campaign (AMC), working to increase degree completion rates and close equity gaps. For associate degree students, the overarching goal is to double the system-wide full-time first-time freshmen three-year associate graduation rate from 17.5% for the fall 2013 cohort to 35% for fall 2019.

### One-year retention

For both LaGuardia and all community colleges (all CC), one-year retention rates were slightly lower in 2018 compared to 2014.

<b>One-year Retention Rates for Fall First-time Full-time Cohorts</b>					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
LaGuardia	63.0%	63.5%	64.4%	64.8%	62.1%
All CC	64.0%	64.4%	64.5%	61.0%	60.8%

### Three-year graduation

While three-year graduation rates steadily increased from the fall 2012 to the fall 2016 cohort for both LaGuardia and all community colleges, those of LaGuardia's increased at a faster rate.

<b>Three-Year Graduation Rates for Fall First-time Full-time Cohorts</b>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
LaGuardia	20.0%	22.0%	22.8%	26.9%	28.5%
All CC	21.0%	21.9%	22.4%	25.3%	27.0%

### Three strategies for achieving AMC goals:

1. 30 credits earned in the first year for first-time full-time freshmen - with a goal that at least 25% of freshmen will successfully complete 30 credits.
  - The proportion of freshmen who earned 30 credits or more increased for both LaGuardia and all community colleges compared to 2013. However, the percentages for all community colleges steadily increased, while at LaGuardia there was a 3.4 percentage points drop in 2018 compared to 2017.

<b>30 Credits Earned in the First Year for Fall First-time Full-time Freshmen</b>						
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
LaGuardia	9.2%	9.8%	10.9%	11.2%	18.8%	15.4%
All CC	7.9%	8.8%	9.3%	10.5%	13.6%	15.2%

2. Increasing the rates at which first-time full-time freshmen take and pass Gateway Math and English composition courses - with a goal that at least 60% and 85% of freshmen successfully complete Gateway Math and English composition courses, respectively.

#### Gateway English Progress

The proportion of freshmen who complete Gateway English remains flat, hovering around 68% at LaGuardia, while steadily increasing from 62.8% to 66.4% at all community colleges. Participation increased at both LaGuardia and all community colleges. However pass rates **decreased** by about 4% at both LaGuardia and average community colleges.

<b>Gateway English Progress for Fall First-time Full-time Freshmen</b>					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Percentage who participate in Gateway English</b>					
LaGuardia	82.5%	81.5%	84.6%	85.8%	87.0%
All CC	78.0%	78.6%	82.1%	83.4%	86.2%
<b>Percentage who complete Gateway English in the First Year</b>					
LaGuardia	68.1%	64.8%	67.8%	68.6%	68.6%
All CC	62.8%	62.5%	64.7%	65.1%	66.4%
<b>Pass Rates in Gateway English</b>					
LaGuardia	81.9%	79.0%	79.8%	79.3%	78.2%
All CC	79.9%	78.8%	78.3%	77.1%	76.3%

### Gateway Math Progress

Results are similar for LaGuardia and all community colleges with notable increases for participation and completion, although the 2018 numbers for both measures are higher for LaGuardia. Similar patterns are also evident for pass rates with a large **decline** for both for pass rates (-10% for LaGuardia and -8% average community colleges rates). Additionally, LaGuardia's pass rates are consistently lower than the average community colleges rates (by 3% - 6%).

<b>Gateway Math Progress for Fall First-time Full-time Freshmen</b>					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Percentage who participate in Gateway Math</b>					
LaGuardia	43.8%	50.9%	56.6%	70.0%	72.0%
All CC	39.4%	44.1%	46.9%	56.3%	62.6%
<b>Percentage who complete Gateway Math in the First Year</b>					
LaGuardia	31.9%	36.8%	40.7%	47.1%	44.9%
All CC	30.2%	34.0%	35.8%	39.8%	41.8%
<b>Pass Rates in Gateway Math</b>					
LaGuardia	72.3%	72.1%	71.6%	67.2%	62.0%
All CC	76.0%	76.3%	75.5%	70.3%	67.6%

### 3. Degree Maps

Improvements in the availability of clear and accurate degree maps for each major, showing a realistic and timely path to a degree. Goal - by fall 2019, all undergraduate majors will be fully mapped. As of spring 2018, 7 of 18 colleges had degree maps for all degree programs, LaGuardia being one of them.

#### **Building on existing efforts:**

##### Expanding ASAP

Graduation rates at LaGuardia fluctuated over the past 5 years, from a low of 53% for the fall 2012 and 2014 cohorts to a high of 58% for the fall 2013 cohort. In contrast, the average community colleges rates gradually dropped from 56.9% to 48.7%.

<b>3-year ASAP Graduation Rates for Fall First-time Full-time Cohorts</b>					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
LaGuardia	56.8%	53.1%	58.0%	52.9%	54.6%
All CC	56.9%	52.7%	55.4%	51.2%	48.7%

## Co-requisite courses

- The proportion of Math co-requisite courses for students needing developmental education at LaGuardia slightly decreased from 9.5% in fall 2016 to 7.2% in fall 2018. In addition, the proportions of students placed in college-level Math courses increased from 40.3% in fall 2016 to 64.2% in fall 2017 and 68.2% in fall 2018.
- The proportion of freshmen placed in college level English was 87% in fall 2017 and 2018, increasing by 5% from fall 2016. However, the proportion of students taking co-requisite compared to remedial courses increased 35%.

## Closing equity gaps for Underrepresented minority (URM) compared to non-URM) – fall 2018 data

- There is a consistent gap for one-year retention rates with higher rates for non-URM freshmen compared to URM freshmen, for both LaGuardia and all community colleges.

<b>One-year Retention Gap for URM vs. non-URM Fall First-time Full-time Cohorts</b>					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
LaGuardia	-10.3%	-9.8%	-11.2%	-8.8%	-14.4%
All CC	-8.0%	-10.2%	-8.8%	-9.9%	-11.6%

- Higher proportions of non-URM freshmen pass Gateway Math courses in the first year compared to URM – at LaGuardia and all community colleges.
- Higher percentage for non-URM of fall full-time, first-time freshmen who earn 30 credits or more by the end of the first year, compared to URM.

## **Summary**

- Overall 3-year graduation target of 35.6% for all community colleges. However, while the LaGuardia graduation rates steadily increase (and for the fall 2016 cohort were 28.5%), there is a steady drop in one-year retention rates.
- ASAP graduation rates steadily drop for all community colleges, although less so at LaGuardia.
- Goal of 60% pass rates for gateway Math. Similarly to all community colleges, LaGuardia saw a steady increase in participation and completion rates, but a steady decrease of pass rates (from 72.3% in fall 2014 to 62% in fall 2018).
- Goal of 85% pass rates for Gateway English freshmen composition. At LaGuardia, completion rates remained at about 68% and participation rates slightly increased, but - as was the case with all community colleges - the pass rates declined by 4%.
- Goal that 25% complete 30 credits – LaGuardia had a steady increase to 18.8% in fall 2017, followed by a drop to 15.4% in fall 2018, while the rates at all community colleges consistently increased, reaching 15.2% in fall 2018.
- There are gaps for URM compared to non-URM freshmen for 30 credits earned, passing Gateway Math courses and one-year retention rates for LaGuardia and the averages of community colleges.

## **Further Analysis – Focusing on First-time Full-time Freshmen (Fall 2016 to Fall 2018)**

### ASAP students

The proportions of ASAP freshmen increased from 25% in fall 2016 to 36% in fall 2017 and 40% in fall 2018. It appears that expanding the program had a corresponding reduction in the academic strength of the entering ASAP freshmen, since pass rates in the first Math courses dropped from 2016 to 2018.

<b>First Math Course Taken – ASAP Freshmen</b>			
	2016	2017	2018
Math pass rates	63.3%	54.7%	52.4%

### Math Placement

The proportions of co-requisite math courses dropped from 9.5% in fall 2016 to 8.5% in fall 2017, to 7.2% in fall 2018. Additionally, there were considerably higher proportions of freshmen taking college-level math courses in fall 2017 and 2018, compared to fall 2016, and lower proportions of freshmen placed in 095 and 096 level courses.

<b>Placement in Math Courses for First-time Full-time Freshmen</b>			
	2016	2017	2018
College Level Math	40.3%	64.2%	68.2%
095 placement	21.5%	14.4%	10.8%
096 placement	38.2%	21.4%	21.0%

- Lower proportions of students passed their first math courses in more recent years compared to fall 2016, regardless of their initial remedial placement.

<b>Pass Rates in First Math Courses for First-time Full-time Freshmen</b>			
	2016	2017	2018
College Level Math	74.0%	61.2%	58.5%
095 placement	63.0%	49.7%	41.0%
096 placement	48.4%	44.9%	33.6%

### One year retention

In an attempt to ascertain the reasons for the drop in one-year retention in fall 2018, we examined a large number of variables for the fall 2016, fall 2017 and fall 2018 first-time full-time freshmen cohorts:

- The proportions of transfer-out students were around 3% in all three years.
- One-year retention was similar for ESL, CUNY Start, Math Start, and freshmen who need English remediation - for the fall 2016, fall 2017 and fall 2018 cohorts.
- One-year retention gradually dropped for ASAP students, and freshmen who did not enroll in FYS courses.
- One-year retention of students at all levels of math placement dropped from 2016 to 2018. The drop in one-year retention for the fall 2018 cohort appears to be related to the notable increase in the number of students placed in college level math, which could be a result of allowing the retaking of placement exams starting in fall 2017. Some of those placed at college level math courses might have performed better if they were placed in remedial or co-requisite courses.

<b>One-year retention by Math Placement for First-time Full-time Freshmen</b>			
	2016	2017	2018
College Level Math	76.0%	71.0%	66.8%
095 placement	56.8%	51.0%	50.2%
096 placement	63.3%	58.3%	53.0%

## Next Steps

- We will check the math placements for the fall 2019 freshmen to see if the pattern from the earlier years persists. However, unfortunately due to the shift to proficiency index placement starting with spring 2020, it is not possible to compare the placement of cohorts prior to 2020 with later cohorts.
- About half of the students who fail their first English course are not retained in the following semester, regardless of their placement. Additionally, the one-term return rates for students who failed their first math course is progressively worse compared to the previous years, especially for college level students. Ensuring that student are placed at the appropriate English and Math levels, and providing them with the support necessary to succeed, appears to be an important contributor to retention and graduation.
- We will continue refining and enhancing Advisement 2.0 reaching all tiers, striving to improve students' academic performance, retention and graduation, and reducing the gaps between URM and non-URM students