CUNY ACCELERATED STUDY IN ASSOCIATE PROGRAMS (ASAP)
ASAP HISTORY

Goal: At least 50% of students will complete an Associate’s degree within three years

2007:
- CUNY funded by Mayor’s Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO) at $6.5 million annual budget for three years
- ASAP launched 1,132 fully skills proficient students* across six CUNY community colleges

* 28% of fall 2007 ASAP students had some developmental needs when recruited and addressed over summer.
ASAP HISTORY

Fall 2009:
- Fall 2007 cohort realizes 30% 2-year graduation rate
- ASAP begins to admit students with developmental needs

Spring 2010:
- Fall 2007 cohort realizes 55% 3-year graduation rate
- ASAP funding made permanent allocation to CUNY by NYC CEO

Fall 2011:
- Fall 2009 cohort realizes 27% 2-year graduation rate
- CUNY Chancellor announces plans to expand ASAP

Summer/Fall 2012:
- Fall 2009 cohort realizes 55% 3-year graduation rate
- ASAP admits 1,500 new students; enrollment=2,209
Chart 1: Graduation Rates for Combined ASAP and Comparison Group Cohorts:
By Developmental Need at Time of Entry¹
Preliminary

Source: CUNY Office of Institutional Assessment and ASAP Colleges
ASAP TODAY...

- Recruited 1,565 new students; current enrollment = 2,209 students
- Expanding to 4,050 students by fall 2014
- Delivering citywide outreach to HS, GED and CBO counselors
- Launching ASAP student leader program at all colleges to facilitate fall 2013 recruitment
COORDINATED EFFORT BETWEEN CENTRAL OFFICE AND COLLEGE PROGRAMS
ASAP COLLEGE STAFFING STRUCTURE

Under Vice President for Academic Affairs:

- College Director
- 3-6 Advisors
- Career Employment Specialist
- Administrative Assistants
- Tutors
ASAP APPROACH

Support students with:

1. Removing financial barriers to full time study
2. Gaining and maintaining academic momentum
3. Developing a connection to the college and building community
4. Accessing comprehensive and relevant support services
ADMISSIONS CRITERIA (FA12)

- Must be a New York City resident
- Agree to study full-time in an ASAP-approved major
- Continuing students must have less than 15 credits and a GPA of 2.0 or above
- Be fully skills proficient or have no more than two developmental course needs
- Receive some need-based financial aid (Pell and/or TAP)
ASAP PROGRAM COMPONENTS

ASAP Services:
- Intensive, intrusive academic advisement
- Academic support services
- Career development services
- Blocked courses
- Priority registration
- Leadership development

Financial Incentives:
- Tuition waivers
- Free use of textbooks
- Unlimited monthly MTA Metrocards
ASAP ADVISEMENT

- Dedicated full-time staff with a current caseload of 1:100
- Work with advisor through graduation
- Monthly contacts build relationships and student comfort
- Assess and address academic and personal needs
- Follow-up with faculty about attendance and progress
ASAP INTERNAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

College Reported

- Retention
- Remedial enrollment, outcomes, and proficiency
- Contacts (advisement, seminar, career, tutoring)

Assessment

- Annual Student Surveys
- Annual Student Focus Groups

Student-Level Data from the CUNY OIRA

- Graduation
- Credit accumulation
EXTERNAL EVALUATION

Five-year Random Assignment Study (MDRC)
- 3 colleges and 900 students
- Preliminary report shows increase full-time enrollment, first-to-second-semester retention, completion of developmental coursework and credits earned

Cost-Benefit Study (Teachers College)
- Part 1 (2012): Finds average cost per 3-year ASAP graduate is lower than for comparison group graduates
- Part 2 (forthcoming): will assess benefits of early degree completion to individual and public sector
GRADUATING STUDENTS FALL 2011

ASAP Resources “Very Helpful” in college

- Financial resources: 96%
- ASAP advisement: 90%
- Early registration: 87%
- ASAP CES: 58%
- Small class size: 55%
- ASAP tutoring: 52%
- Block programming: 45%
ASAP EXPANSION

Since 2010, raised $6 million in foundation funds to expand program and evaluation capacity and offer transfer scholarships

- Entered into random assignment study with MDRC
- Launched transfer scholarship program for ASAP graduates at six CUNY senior colleges
- Conducted broad citywide outreach campaign in 2012 using ASAP students and graduates
- Began expansion to 4,000+ students by 2014
ASAP COSTS

- Pre-expansion annual cost per student: $6,000
- Current cost per student: $4,500
- Estimated annual cost per student at scale in 2014: $3,700
- ASAP students graduate at more than twice the rate of non-ASAP comparison group students
- First part of cost-benefit study shows a $6,500 savings per ASAP graduate
ASAP REPORTS

- ASAP Follow-Up Report
- MDRC Preliminary Report
- Part-One Cost-Benefit Study

www.cuny.edu/asap