

CUNY Start Program Snapshot (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)

What is CUNY Start?

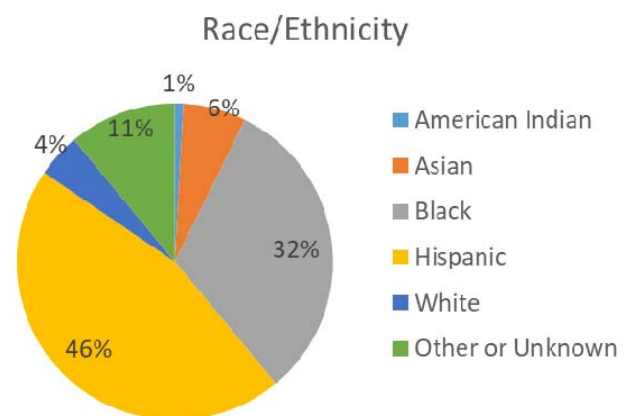
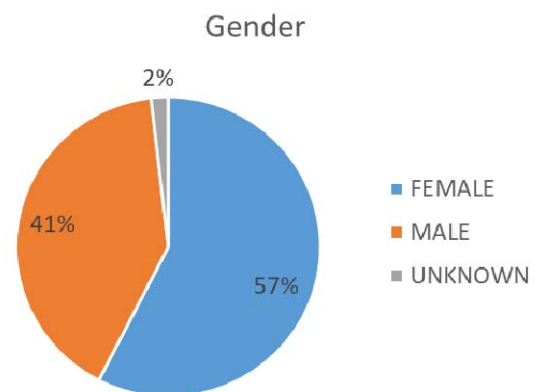
CUNY Start is a developmental education intervention to help students make a successful transition to college by reducing or eliminating remedial needs prior to enrollment. CUNY Start students defer matriculation for one semester to receive intensive preparation in college reading, writing, and/ or math, as well as college success advisement. CUNY Start is offered as a full-time program in all subject areas, and as a part-time program in math and in reading and writing. For more information, visit www.cuny.edu/cunystart.

What does CUNY Start do? Taking remedial courses has been shown to slow academic momentum. CUNY Start helps students minimize their remedial course load so that they enter college ready to take credit-bearing courses. Placement into remediation is determined by the CUNY Assessment Tests. As of Fall 2012, math proficiency is determined by performance in a last-in-sequence remedial course. As of Fall 2016, reading proficiency is also determined by performance in a last-in-sequence remedial course. Proficiency in writing is determined by the CUNY Assessment Test in Writing.

Target population - CUNY Start serves students with significant remedial education needs. Students admitted to CUNY take the CUNY Assessment tests in math, reading, and writing and are referred to remedial coursework if they do not meet University college-readiness benchmarks.

Student Demographics – More than 3,400 students enrolled in CUNY Start during the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters. Most of the students in CUNY Start were Black (32%) and Hispanic (46%), and the majority of students in the program were female (57%). CUNY Start students also tend to be more ‘traditional-aged’ students (43% under age 20; 31.7% between the ages of 20-23).

Specialized instruction - CUNY Start provides intensive instruction (25 hours/week in the full-time program; 12 hours/week in the part-time program). The original curriculum was developed by instructional experts. Instructors receive extensive professional development towards implementing the program’s unique pedagogical approach, including a semester shadowing a lead CUNY Start educator.



Focus on Math – the CUNY Start math curriculum integrates the study of arithmetic/pre-algebra and elementary algebra topics into a cohesive curriculum. Throughout the semester, the math curriculum interweaves three major strands – arithmetic, functions, and elementary algebra. Conceptual connections between relationship with numbers and algebraic relations and procedures are developed and reinforced extensively. Functions are used in part to bring in realistic contexts and provide varied settings in which students can apply their understanding and practice skills. The curriculum incorporates a balance of conceptual and procedural topics.

Program structure - CUNY Start is offered at seven CUNY community colleges and three CUNY senior colleges. CUNY Start students pay a \$75 fee which allows them to reserve financial aid for credit courses. CUNY Start includes 12 weeks of core instruction followed by an assessment of student proficiency. Students with remaining remedial needs continue for an additional three to six weeks of supplemental instruction and reassessment.

Enrollment by College (Fall 2017 – Spring 2018)	
CUNY Campus	N
Borough of Manhattan Community College	849
Bronx Community College	418
College of Staten Island	253
Hostos Community College	447
Kingsborough Community College	220
LaGuardia Community College	546
Medgar Evers College	124
New York City College of Technology	15
Queensborough Community College	583

Recent Program Reports and Evaluations

Starting to Succeed: The Impact of CUNY Start on Academic Momentum (Jenkins-Webber, July 2018):

This research brief finds CUNY Start students are much more likely to enroll in and pass gateway courses in their first year than matched comparison group students; impacts are especially strong in math and for students who entered with the greatest remedial needs.

Becoming College-Ready: Early Findings from a CUNY Start Evaluation (MDRC, July, 2018):

This report details first and second semester outcomes for the study groups who were randomly assigned to either CUNY Start or CUNY’s matriculated student pathway. Early findings indicate that CUNY Start students are making substantially more progress than the control group in passing developmental courses and, after matriculation, in college. CUNY Start is part of a five-year research study that is funded by the US DOE Institute of Education Sciences and being led by MDRC in partnership with the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University (CCRC), and CUNY.

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