



Astra Academy: Scheduling for Successful Outcomes

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Presentation Overview

- Introduction (10 Minutes)
- CUNY Accelerated Study in Associates Programs (ASAP) (35 - 40 Minutes)
- Comments and Questions (10 -15 Minutes)



- Ad Astra is a course scheduling and enrollment management organization that partners with over 600 institutions annually to improve course scheduling efficiency and accessibility for students.
- Ad Astra offers unique solutions designed to graduate more students faster.
- Astra Academy is a webinar series that brings together diverse stakeholders across the higher education landscape to share with you how their work is helping to improve student outcomes with a focus on student retention, time-to-completion, or graduation.



City University of New York
Accelerated Study in Associate
Programs
CUNY ASAP

ASAP
ACCELERATED STUDY IN ASSOCIATE PROGRAMS

Remove financial barriers to full-time study

Provide **structured degree pathways** and comprehensive, **well-coordinated support services**

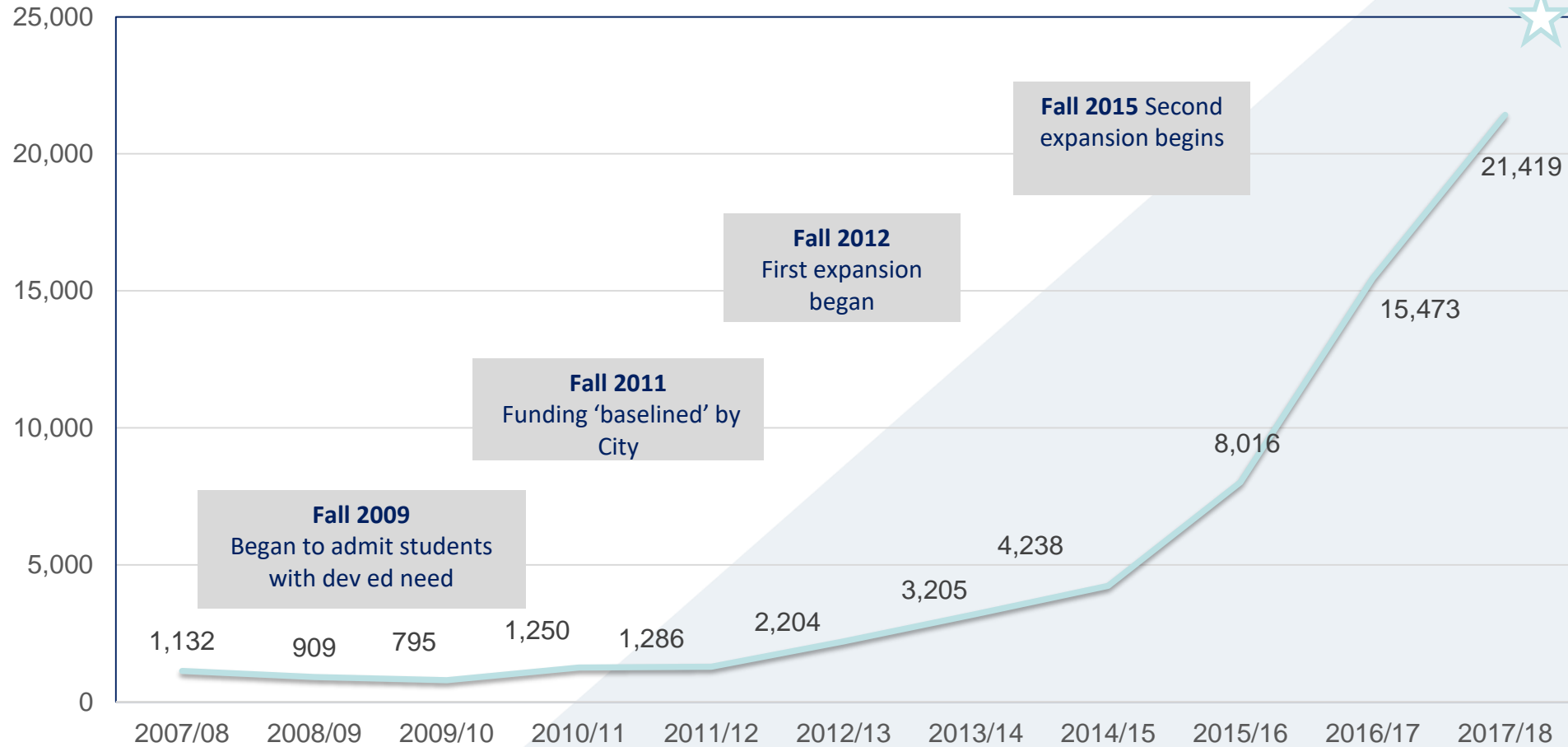
Establish **clear expectations** for all students

Build community through early engagement and cohort model

Better engaged students who graduate in a timely manner



TOTAL ENROLLMENT (FALL 2007-FALL 2017)





EXPANSION ACROSS CUNY

33,800 students (11 cohorts) have been served by ASAP since inception in 2007

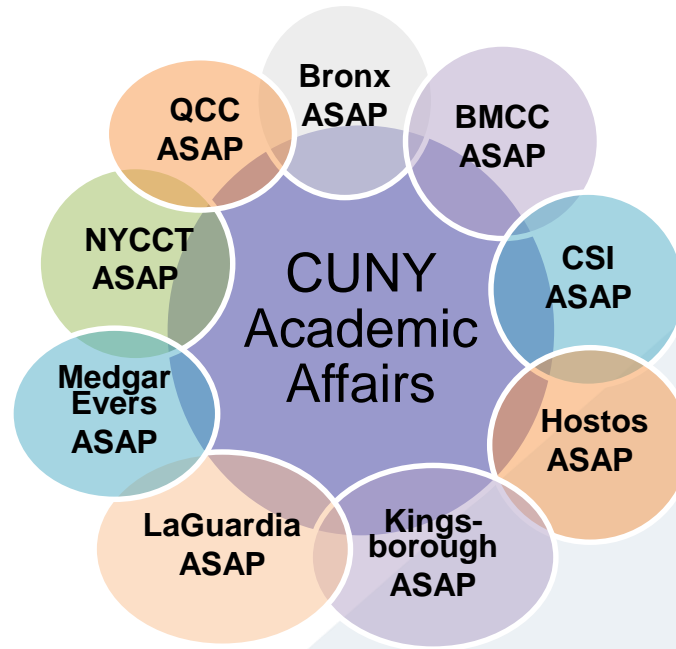
Expanding to serve **25,000 students per year** by 2018/19

Pre-expansion annual cost/student= \$6,000

Fall 2017 annual cost/student= **\$3,439**

By 2022, the overall CUNY three-year associate degree graduation rate will **increase to 34%**
(from a current rate of 17%)

PROGRAM ORGANIZATION



Colleges:

- Local program management
- Recruitment and direct services to students
- Monitoring student progress/engagement
- Campus relationships and integration

CUNY OAA:

- Overall program administration
- Program-wide resources
- Evaluation/data management
- External partnerships
- Citywide outreach

Financial Resources

Tuition waivers

(For students with gap between tuition/fees and financial aid)

Annual textbook stipend

NYC transit MetroCards



CORE PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Structured Pathways

Consolidated full-time course schedules

First-year blocked courses

Immediate/continuous developmental course taking

Winter and summer courses



CORE PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Comprehensive Supports

High-touch advisement
(individual and group)

Embedded career development

Academic support services

Early engagement

Evaluation and data use for program management is essential

Guides the work we do:

- Supports Advisors to manage their caseload of students
- Ensures program is being implemented as intended

Allows for reflection and continuous program improvement

Validates and highlights work done by program staff

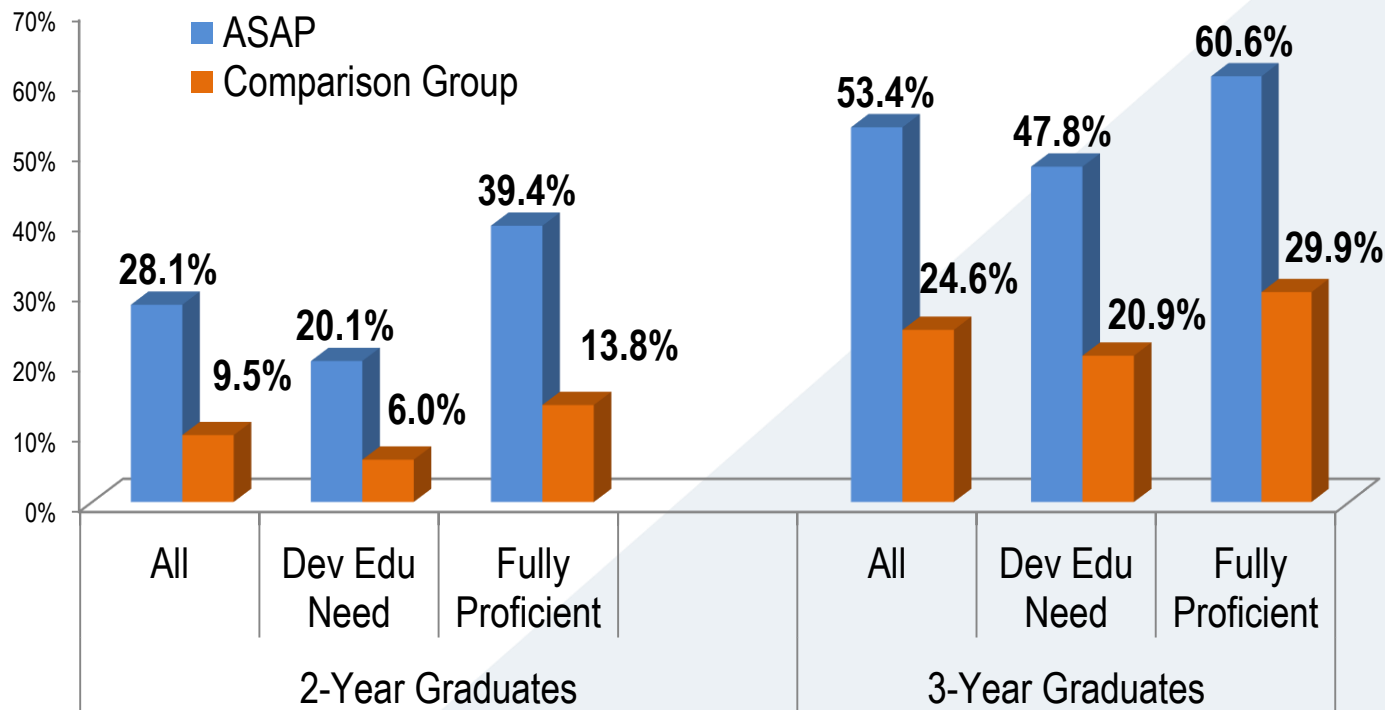
INTERNAL EVALUATION

- Ongoing quasi-experimental analysis by CUNY
- Web-based data management system
- Data reviewed regularly to assess impact, measure movement towards goals, and improve program practice

EXTERNAL EVALUATION

- Five-year random assignment study by MDRC
- Cost-benefit study by the Center for Benefit Cost Studies in Education (CBCSE), Teachers College, Columbia University led Dr. Henry Levin

**Average Graduation Rates of ASAP and Comparison Group Students:
Fall 2007-Fall 2014 Cohorts**





SIX YEAR OUTCOMES OF FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN (COHORTS 1 AND 2)

- ASAP students had earned degrees at a higher rate –
63.6% vs. 43.3%
- ASAP students had transferred to baccalaureate programs at a higher rate –
59.3% vs. 39.7%
- ASAP students had earned bachelor's degrees at a higher rate –
26.9% vs. 18.1%



EXTERNAL EVALUATION FINDINGS

MDRC

At the end of 3 years, CUNY ASAP nearly doubled the graduation rate

At the end of 6 years, CUNY ASAP increased graduation rates and helped some students graduate faster

Cost Effectiveness and Benefit Reports (September 2012, May 2013)

ASAP saves \$6,500 per graduate vs. comparison group

Total net benefits for 1,000 enrolled ASAP students=\$46.5 million higher than for 1,000 comparison group students



REPLICATION APPROACH

Partnership with ODHE and MDRC

Less than 1 Year of technical assistance prior to a Spring 2015 pilot launch at 3 CC

One year of additional support through Fall 2015 launch

Early Findings (SP 15, FA 15)

Boost in FT Enrollment

Persistence to 2nd Semester

Credit Attainment (Attempted and Earned)



REPLICATION APPROACH

Technical Assistance Schedule (15 months) *Customized consultation, E-Learning Series*

Phase 1: Institutional Inventory and Preliminary Implementation Planning

Phase 2: Replication Launch Convening

Phase 3: E-Learning Dissemination with paired Consultations

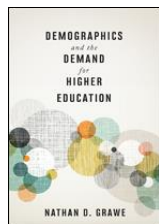
Phase 4: Ready to Launch Assessment

Phase 5: Post-Launch Support

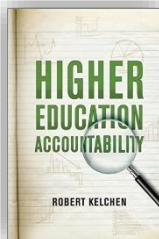
Forthcoming Astra Academy Webinars



- May 22 – 3.00 PM EDT – Ross Markle, Educational Testing Service, “Noncognitive Assessment: Bringing Data, Understanding, and Action to Student Success”



- September 11 – 3.00 PM EDT – Nathan Grawe, Carleton College, *Demographics and the Demand for Higher Education*



- Fall 2018 – Robert Kelchen, Seton Hall University, *Higher Education Accountability*

Your Comments and Questions



- Comments or questions? Please feel free to type them to John Barnshaw and he will attempt to address as many as possible in the allotted time.



Q&A

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