

What Happens to Students Who Take Community College Dual Enrollment Courses in High School?

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OVERVIEW

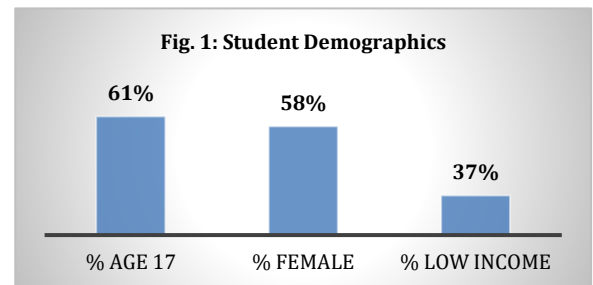
There are many positive effects of dual enrollment high school programs on college enrollment, credit accumulation and degree completion. For example, using data from the National Student Clearinghouse, Shapiro et al. 2016 found that high school students who participated in dual enrollment programs completed their BA one year earlier and their AA two years earlier than non-dual enrollment students. However, a more systematic study of dual enrollment students' characteristics, enrollment patterns, and college outcomes is needed to assemble important insights for improving college access and completion (Fin, Jenkins & Yanagiura, 2017).

The current Research Review summarizes data from a report by the Community College Research Center at Teachers College, Columbia University. In their brief, "[What happens to Students Who Take Community College Dual Enrollment Courses in High School?](#)", Fin, Jenkins and Yanagiura, 2017 explore data from 213,780 dual enrollment high school students across the United States that were first time in college (FTIC) students in the fall of 2010 (followed for 6 years post high school graduation).

RESULTS

- **Characteristics of dual enrollment students (demographics in figure 1):**

- Nationally, 15% of fall 2010 community college students, who were FTIC students, were dual enrolled (**see fig. 1 for demographics**)
- Interestingly, in California, only 8% of FTIC students were dual enrollment participants (10th lowest in the nation)
- 30% of these students participated for only 1 term, 42% participated for only 2 terms, and 28% participated for 3 or more terms

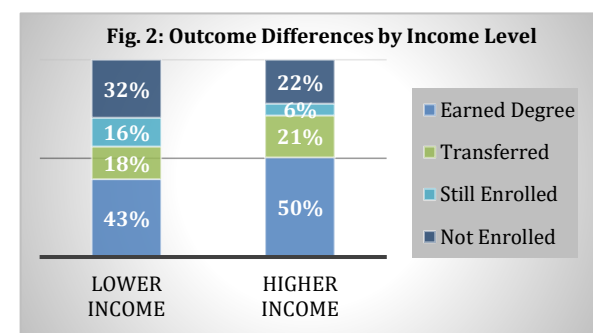


- **Where did dual enrollment students attend college?:**

- 47% went to community college (84% of these reenrolled in the community college where they took classes)
- 41% went to a 4-year college; 12% did not attend

- **Outcomes for Dual Enrollment students (2010-2016):**

- 46% earned a college degree or certificate within 5 years
- 19% transferred to a 4-year without earning a degree within 5 years
- 7% were still enrolled at the end of the 5-year period
- However, there are important differences when you compare outcomes across income level (**see figure 2**).
- California has the lowest degree attainment rate with only 14% of dual enrolled students attaining their Associates & 15% attaining Bachelors



DISCUSSION

Dual enrollment programs have a positive impact on college matriculation and completion. However, there are many unanswered questions that should be further explored. For example, what does this data look like when disaggregated to look at race or gender? Why does a high-resource state like California have such low attainment rates? Why are outcomes better for higher income students? It would also be useful to study the partnerships between the various high schools and colleges to see if there are variations in program structure that might be producing state-to-state differences in outcomes.