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Research Matters

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE'
OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL
RESEARCH BLOG & NEWSLETTER

[Text](#)

November 05, 2015

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Hello!

“For example, in a chapter of Rewarding Strivers (The Century Foundation, 2010) titled “How Increasing College Access Is Increasing Inequality, and What to Do about It,” Carnevale and Strohl offer compelling evidence on how income quartile impacts college graduation rates. This research shows that when observing students who score in the middle range on the SAT (between 1,000 and 1,200), 66% from the top income quartile graduate college by age 24. For those in the lowest income quartile, it is 17%.

Simply put, this is a shocking finding. These are students at the same band of ability as measured by their SAT scores, and yet students from the highest income quartile are four times more likely to get a degree by age 24 than students in the lowest income quartile. If you only look at top performers—students who have above 1,200 SAT scores—the trend persists. The highest income quartile achieves a college degree 82% of the time by age 24, while those in the lowest income quartile do so just 44% of the time. “

[-Guided Pathways Demystified: Exploring Ten Commonly Asked Questions about Implementing Pathways](#)

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July 07, 2015

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[Medicaid at 50: Covering Children Has Long-Term Educational Benefits | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#)

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June 16, 2015

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[Piloting the Baccalaureate Program in California](#)

Mesa College is one of 12 California community colleges (including SMC) that will be offering four-year degrees in the next few years.

This article looks at the work behind the scenes as it prepared it's program in Health Information Technology (HIT).

Tags: [comm_college_higher_ed](#)

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June 16, 2015

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[When Guarding Student Data Endangers Valuable Research](#)

“In response to such concerns, some pending legislation would scale back the authority of schools, districts and states to share student data with third parties, including researchers. Perhaps the most stringent of these proposals, sponsored by Senator David Vitter, a Louisiana Republican, would effectively end the analysis of student data by outside social scientists. This legislation would have banned recent prominent research documenting the [benefits of smaller classes](#), the [value of excellent teachers](#) and the [varied performance of charter schools](#). “

Tags: [research_comm_college](#)

[Text](#)

June 15, 2015

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[SMC's Student Survey on Sexual Assault & Harassment](#)

To comply with White House recommendations, Santa Monica College conducted a campus-wide survey of students to gauge the prevalence of sexual assault on campus

and assess students' attitudes and awareness about this issue. The purpose of the survey was to help the college better understand the scope of the problem and to develop practices and programs to respond more effectively when a student is assaulted. A total of 1,766 surveys (paper-based and online) were completed by students between March 22nd and April 6th, 2015. Some key findings from the survey are:

- Overall, students reported that they felt it was likely that the college would handle incidents of both sexual assault or harassment appropriately, however, students' ratings of how the college would handle an incident report were significantly higher (i.e., positive, favorable) for sexual assault than for harassment.
- Agreement was generally weak about students' knowledge of reporting procedures. The weakest area of knowledge is the process of what happens when a student reports a claim.
- About 60% of students reported they had received information or education about sexual assault before coming to SMC.
- About 56% of students reported that they did not receive any written or verbal information about sexual assault from someone at SMC.
- Students reported an average rating of awareness between "slightly aware" and "somewhat aware" of Psychological Services and other community resources for sexual assault.
- Nearly 13% of students reported having experienced a form of sexual assault prior to coming to SMC; nearly 4% of students reported experiencing sexual assault while they were a student at SMC.
- About half of students who reported having had an experience of unwanted sexual contact did not report where the incident occurred (52.1%), 42.7% reported that the incident occurred off-campus, and about 5.2% reported that the incident occurred on campus.
- About 8% of students reported having witnessed sexual intimidation or harassment on campus.

You can read the complete report [here](#).

Tags: [comm](#) [college](#) [higher ed](#) [SMC](#)

[Link](#)

May 19, 2015

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[114 notes](#)

[How to access Pew Research Center survey data](#)

[pewresearch:](#)

Here's a [datasets 101 post](#) written by our chief methodologist for all of you aspiring number-crunchers.

Pew Research datasets are widely used by scholars and students. Among the hundreds of survey datasets available, here are some of the most popular and frequently downloaded:

- Internet, Science & Technology: [25th Anniversary of the Web \(2014\)](#)
- Social & Demographic Trends: [2013 Gender and Generations](#)
- Global Attitudes: [Spring 2013 Survey Data \(39 nations\)](#)
- Religion & Public Life: [2013 A Portrait of Jewish Americans](#)
- U.S. Politics & Policy: [1987-2012 Values Survey Combined Dataset](#)
- Hispanic Trends: [2012 National Survey of Latinos](#)
- Internet, Science & Technology: [2013 Online Dating](#)
- Religion & Public Life: [2010 U.S. Religious Knowledge Survey](#)

[Link](#)

May 19, 2015

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[DEGREES OF FREEDOM: Diversifying Math Requirements for College Readiness and Graduation | Policy... - Linkis.com](#)

But evolutions in various disciplines and in learning sciences are calling into question the relevance and utility of this trajectory as a requirement for all students. The emerging movement is toward differentiated "math pathways" with distinct trajectories tied to students' goals. Alternatives emphasizing statistics, modeling, computer science, and quantitative reasoning that are cropping up in high schools and colleges are beginning to challenge the dominance of the familiar math sequence.

[Video](#)

May 14, 2015

[0 Comments](#)



On May 14, 2015, CCRC and AACC hosted a book talk and panel on *Redesigning America's Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success*, by Thomas Bailey, Shanna Smith Jaggars, and Davis Jenkins. Panelists discussed institution-wide reforms that have the potential to help community colleges dramatically improve student success

(Source: [youtube.com](#))

[Link](#)

May 14, 2015

[0 Comments](#)

[Complete College America » Building a Culture of Timely Graduation: The Story of Purdue University Calumet](#)

Since the launch of the Complete College America “Game Changer” strategies at Purdue University Calumet, the university has **more than doubled** the percentage of students enrolled in 15+ credits during their first semester (27% in 2012 to 66% in 2014). Fall 2014 retention for first-time, full-time students **increased by 4.7 percentage points**. Overall, more students are on track to complete on time, and Calumet is better positioned for long-term sustainability in student success.

[Link](#)

May 14, 2015

[0 Comments](#)[Rethinking the ‘cafeteria’ approach to community college](#)

But the dark side of choice and flexibility is complexity, disorientation and disconnectedness. A course catalogue containing hundreds of classes and dozens of program areas confronts students, who receive limited help in deciding what to study ([adviser to student ratios](#) exceed 1 to 1,000 at many colleges) and may have difficulty determining the classes they need to complete a degree or to transfer to a four-year college without losing credits. Many students drift aimlessly for years, accumulating credits but coming no nearer to earning a degree.

Tags: [CCRC](#) [SMC](#)[Link](#)

April 24, 2015

[0 Comments](#)[Looking Beyond the Data to Help Students Succeed](#)

If Santa Monica College had relied solely on data analytics to predict whether Jaime J. would succeed, the picture would have looked bleak. He was, after all, a financially struggling, first-generation Hispanic student who was juggling a job with classes. His math skills were shaky.

But there was more to the picture than that. Using a 30-minute online assessment that focuses on noncognitive skills, advisers at the two-year institution in Southern California learned that Jaime was also a conscientious student with good study habits who had long dreamed of becoming a computer engineer.

Couple of things to note:

1. Hey cool, that’s us!
2. This is **NOT** an example of looking “Beyond the Data”, in fact quite the opposite. The use of the “Success Navigator” assessment is an attempt to provide counselors with a larger set of data that they can use to more quickly, and accurately, identify students such as Jaime. In a college where enrollments reach upwards of 29,000 (including 6,000 new students each fall term), this an attempt to *leverage data analytics* in order to increase student success.

Tags: [SMC](#) [GRIT](#)[Link](#)

April 12, 2015

[0 Comments](#)["Big Six" College Experiences Linked to Life Preparedness](#)

As colleges and universities strive to increase the number of students graduating in four years and prepare students for life after college, they should consider creating college experiences that include deep, experiential learning and faculty care and support. Creating an on-campus environment that harbors the necessary experiences that could increase preparedness and four-year attainment rates might also benefit students financially. Extending college beyond the “traditional” four years damages students’ lifetime earnings profile, according to New York Federal Reserve researchers Jaison R. Abel and Richard Deitz. The net present value of an extra year of college is \$65,319. This figure includes tuition and fees and opportunity costs of extra time in school and wage earnings.

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About



The Office of Institutional Research

(IR) at Santa Monica College provides essential decision-support services for the college. The office also serves as a key contact and institutional resource for external entities such as the state and federal government, and the accrediting commission.

Unless otherwise noted, all posts, links, re-blogs and nonsense are curated by IR Research Analyst Daniel Berumen.

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