

## Key Impediments to College Access and Success for Low-Income and Minority Students

**Prof. Bridget Terry Long, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor of Education and Economics

*Achievement Gap Initiative  
Second Annual Conference  
June 19, 2006*

## The Pathway to College in the New Millennium

	Academic Achievement (GPA≥2.0)	Took the SAT or ACT	Graduated from HS	Enrolled in College by 2003
White	0.924	0.615	0.780	0.697
Black	0.865	0.491	0.703	0.555
Latino	0.863	0.365	0.735	0.568

Source: Long and Flores (2006). National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (high school graduating classes of 1998 to 2002)

## The Pathway to College by Family Income

	Academic Achievement (GPA≥2.0)		Took the SAT or ACT		Graduated from HS	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Household Income 1997	51,238	37,374	60,247	36,855	52,658	26,324

Source: Long and Flores (2006), NLSY97.

**Is Higher Education the Key to Advancement or the Gatekeeper?**

## Beyond College Access . . . *Are students persisting to graduation?*

### 6Yr Grad Rate - 1996-97 cohort

	Division I Public	Division I Private	Division II	Division III
	<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>White</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Black</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>67</b>

Source: 2003 NCAA Graduation-Rates Report based on data provided by the institution in compliance with NCAA Bylaws. Rates reflect all undergraduate students who entered in 1996 and were enrolled in a FT program for a degree. Division I member institutions have to sponsor at least 7 sports for men and 7 for women (or 6 for men and 8 for women) with 2 team sports for each gender.

## The Keys to College Access and Success

### 1. Academic Preparation

*Are students prepared? What happens when they are not?*

### 2. Financial Resources

*Is there enough financial aid?*

### 3. Information

*Is accurate information available in a timely fashion?*

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## (1) Academic Preparation *Are Students prepared for college?*

- Ohio Preparedness Study: **36%** of ACT test-takers did not meet an academic core → Likely to be much higher (self-reported; larger % among non-test-takers)

- Overall, **35%** of students graduate HS without an academic curriculum or grade-level proficiency  
Source: Greene and Foster (2005)

→ Strengthen K-12 - *But what do we do in the meantime? What about past graduates?*

→ Nationally **35% to 40%** of 1<sup>st</sup> year students enter college remediation → the **key academic gate-keeper** to postsecondary study

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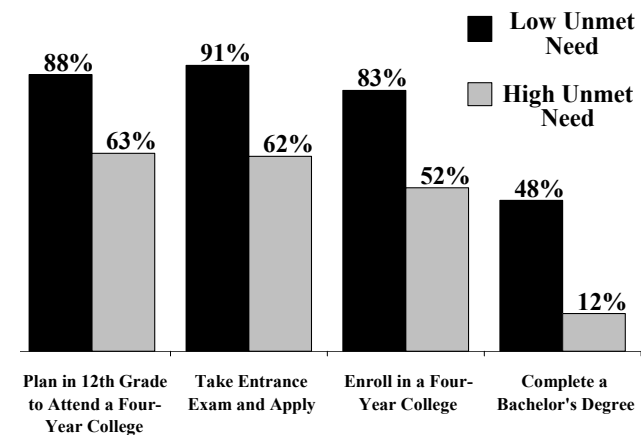
## The Effects of Remediation

Bettinger, Eric and B. T. Long. (2006) "Addressing the Needs of Under-Prepared College Students: Does College Remediation Work?"

- All else equal, marginal students placed in remediation had better educational outcomes in comparison to students with similar backgrounds who were not required to take the courses
- Reduced the likelihood of dropping out and increased the likelihood of completing a degree
- More research is needed – *Which types of programs work best? What about students needing a lot of remediation?*

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## Will Preparation Solve all Problems? *Unmet financial need has large negative effects on college-qualified low-income students*



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## (2) The Role of Financial Aid Concerns about Affordability

Average Undergraduate Tuition & Fees, 2004-05

	Public Colleges		Privates
	4-year	2-year	4-year
Tuition & Fees	\$5,132	\$2,076	\$20,082
Total Charges	\$11,354	---	\$27,516

Source: The College Board. Weighted by enrollment.

### Median Family Income 2003

All	\$52,680	Female-headed	\$26,550
Black	\$34,369	Latino/Hispanic	\$34,272

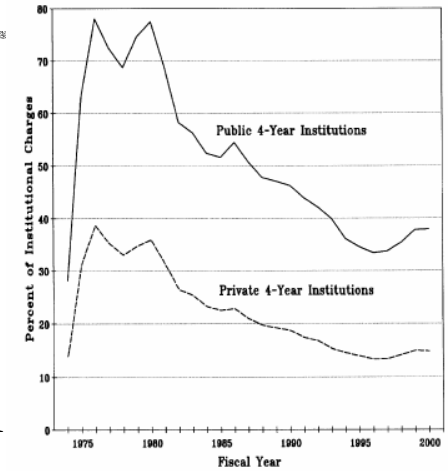
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## Declining Value of Pell . . .

Pell now covers less than half as much as it did originally

Proportion of Institutional Charges covered by Max Pell  
1973-4 to 2000-1

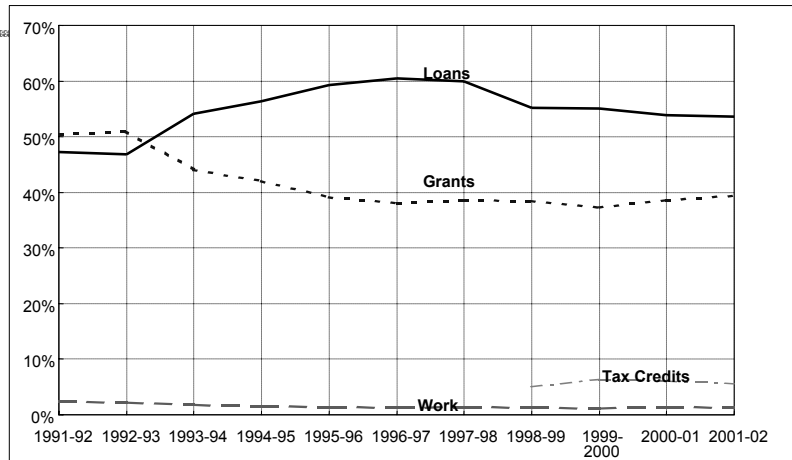
Source: College Board



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## The Shift to Loans . . .

Aid as a Percentage of Total, 1991-92 to 2001-02



Source: The College Board 11

## (3) The Role of Information

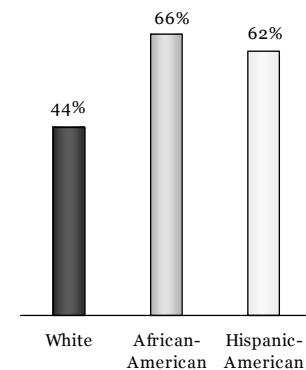
Sallie Mae Fund (2003) "National Consumer Study of Parent and Student Financial Aid Awareness."

Those who need financial aid the most say they need more information about how to pay for college.

Parents of 18-24 year olds who agree with: "You wish you had more information about how to pay for college"

% Strongly/  
Somewhat  
Agree

(48% of all parents)



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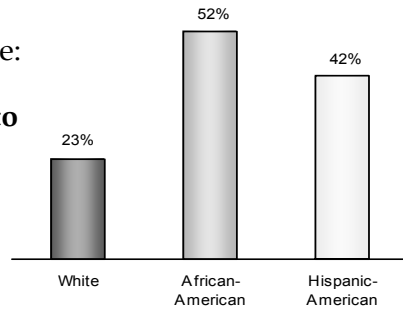
### **(3) The Role of Information**

Sallie Mae Fund (2003) "National Consumer Study of Parent and Student Financial Aid Awareness."

*Low-income & minority parents feel **strongly** about the need for more information about how to pay for college*

Parents of 18-24 year olds who strongly agree:  
**"You wish you had more info about how to pay for college"**

**% Strongly Agree**  
 (29% of all parents)



### **The Many Hurdles to Attending College...**

#### **Fall of the Senior Year in High School**

	Low-SES, Inner-city HS	High-SES, Suburban HS
Took PSAT	59	90
Registered for SAT	72	97
Took SAT/ACT	32	98
Met with Guidance Counselor 4+ times	17	55
Visited a College	35	83
Had application	54	91
Applied to College	18	41

Avery and Kane (2004) "Student Perceptions of College Opportunities: The Boston COACH Program"

### **The Keys to College Access and Success**

#### **1. Academic Preparation**

*Are students prepared? What happens when they are not?*

#### **2. Financial Resources**

*How is unmet need affecting access, choice, and persistence*

#### **3. Information**

*Is accurate information available in a timely fashion?*