

CUNY Accelerated Study in Associate Program (ASAP): Identifying and Analyzing ASAP Students in IRDB

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1. ASAP Overview & Eligibility

Launched in fall 2007, ASAP is a comprehensive program for students pursuing their associate degrees at nine CUNY colleges: Borough of Manhattan Community College, Bronx Community College, Hostos Community College, Kingsborough Community College, LaGuardia Community College, Queensborough Community College, Medgar Evers College, with recent additions at New York City College of Technology and College of Staten Island. This fall 2015 marks the launch of a pilot program, ACE (Accelerate, Complete, Engage), at John Jay College to support baccalaureate students.

ASAP is designed to help associate degree seeking students earn their degrees as quickly as possible, with a goal of graduating at least 50% of students within three years. Due to a variety of stresses and responsibilities, too many students are not able to complete their associate degrees in a timely manner, if at all. ASAP helps to eliminate these stresses by providing students with the academic, social, and financial support they need to graduate with an associate degree in no more than three years. Key ASAP program features include a consolidated block schedule, cohorts by major, small class size, required full-time study, and comprehensive and personalized advisement and career development services. Financial incentives include tuition waivers for financial aid-eligible students, textbook assistance, and monthly MetroCards for all students. For more information, please visit: www.cuny.edu/asap

Eligibility Requirements as of Fall 2015

Eligibility requirements for ASAP have changed over time. As of fall 2015, the eligibility requirements were as follows:

- Associate degree seeking
- First-time freshman **OR** continuing or transfer student with up to 15 college credits
- Fully skills proficient **OR** have 1-2 developmental/remedial course needs
- New York City resident (at the community colleges) or New York State resident (at all other colleges) per the CUNY tuition and fees manual
- Enrolled full-time (minimum of 12 credits per semester)
- Enrolled in ASAP-approved major (most majors with the exception of nursing and allied health)
- **Continuing students only** must have minimum GPA of 2.0
- Students must apply for financial aid to be eligible
- Students cannot participate in both SEEK/College Discovery and ASAP

2. Official Enrollment by Cohort

ASAP admitted new cohorts in the following semesters:

- Fall 2007 (Cohort 1)¹ – 1,132 students
- Fall 2009 (Cohort 2) – 429 students
- Spring 2010 (Cohort 3) – 390 students
- Fall 2010 (Cohort 4) – 559 students
- Fall 2011 (Cohort 5) – 475 students
- Fall 2012 (Cohort 6) – 1,562 students
- Fall 2013 (Cohort 7) – 1,847 students
- Fall 2014 (Cohort 8) – 2,278 students
- Spring 2015 – Medgar Evers only (Cohort 8 Spring) – 114 students

See appendix A for enrollment numbers by college and cohort. Please note that Medgar Evers admitted its first cohort in fall 2014. NYCCT, CSI and John Jay ACE admitted their first cohorts in fall 2015.

ASAP is in the process of expanding and plans to serve 25,000 students by academic year 2018-2019.

ASAP's official retention and graduation rates are based on the semester in which the student entered ASAP (i.e. the student's official ASAP cohort).

3. Coding of Students

Students can participate in ASAP for up to three years. Every semester, students are assigned a code in the IRDB indicating whether they were considered officially enrolled in ASAP for that semester.

The code used in the IRDB to flag whether a student was enrolled in ASAP in a given semester is in the "Other Special Programs" field in the "History Facts" table of the IRDB. The value of 70 for the Other Special Programs Code field indicates that the student was enrolled in ASAP.

- *Other Special Programs Code: 70*
- *Other Special Programs Desc: Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP)*

This code is assigned every semester after the ASAP program staff have determined whether a student is enrolled in the program that semester.² Students sometimes leave the ASAP program and then return in a later semester, meaning that they can be enrolled in ASAP in one semester, not enrolled the following semester, and then enrolled again in a later semester.

In order to calculate retention and graduation rates for ASAP students, it's necessary to know in which ASAP cohort the student entered. Retention and graduation rates are based on the time from the semester of entry into ASAP. For example, 3-year graduation rates for the fall 2011 cohort are calculated as students who graduated with an associate degree as of the end of summer 2014. Keep in mind that not all students are first-time freshmen when they enter ASAP, since ASAP also accepts continuing and transfer students with up to 15 college credits.

You can identify the ASAP cohort in the IRDB by finding the first fall or spring semester in which a student was coded as enrolled in ASAP (see sample SQL query below). You can reference the official enrollment numbers by cohort in this document to determine whether you are identifying the ASAP cohort correctly, keeping in mind that there are slight discrepancies between the IRDB coded first enrollment and the official ASAP enrollment numbers.

4. SQL Query to Identify ASAP Entering Cohort

```
SELECT
HF.*
FROM
(
SELECT
HF.*,
RANK () OVER (PARTITION BY STUDENT_ID, COLLEGE_ID
ORDER BY TERM_ENROLLED_DATE, ROWNUM) AS RANKVAR
FROM
IR.HISTORY_FACTS HF
WHERE
HF.HEADCOUNT=1
AND HF.OTHER_SPECIAL_PROG_CODE='70'
AND HF.SEMESTER_ENROLLED_CODE IN ('02', '09')
)
HF
WHERE RANKVAR=1
```

5. ASAP Data and Evaluation

ASAP has a dedicated research and evaluation team that conducts ongoing analyses of the program using quasi-experimental methods. ASAP campus staff enter and manage data in a web-based database created and maintained by the ASAP central office. ASAP analyses use data from this program database, the CUNY Administrative Data Warehouse (ADW) and the CUNY Institutional Research Database (IRDB). For each cohort, the ASAP research and evaluation team creates a comparison group of similar students who did not participate and reports on outcomes for both groups. ASAP also works with third-party evaluators, such as MDRC and researchers at Teachers College at Columbia University. For more information about ASAP's data and evaluation projects, please visit:

<http://www1.cuny.edu/sites/asap/evaluation/>

If you have questions or requests about ASAP data, analyses, research or evaluation, please contact Diana Strumbos, ASAP Director for Research and Evaluation at diana.strumbos@cuny.edu.

Appendix A: Official Enrollment by College and Cohort

ASAP Enrollment by Semester of Entry: By College

Cohorts 1 to 8

	Fall 2007	Fall 2009	Spring 2010	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014	Total
	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3	Cohort 4	Cohort 5	Cohort 6	Cohort 7	Cohort 8	
<i>College</i>									
BMCC	249	59	97	106	51	248	270	346	1,426
BMCC Evening	~~	~~	~~	49	13	52	79	48	241
Bronx	118	52	43	66	72	162	209	227	949
Hostos	82	58	43	51	42	171	220	207	874
Kingsborough	247	108	71	84	140	316	358	382	1,706
LaGuardia	208	100	61	82	82	299	351	414	1,597
Medgar Evers	~~	~~	~~	~~	~~	~~	~~	216	216
Queensborough	228	52	75	121	75	314	360	438	1,663
Total	1,132	429	390	559	475	1,562	1,847	2,278	8,672

¹ Note that in Spring 2008, 38 “shadow” students were admitted to ASAP. These students are not counted as a part of the official cohort 1 enrollment.

² ASAP provides a list of officially enrolled students each semester to OIRA to be coded in the IRDB. The list is usually provided to OIRA by October 15th for fall semesters and April 15th for spring semesters.