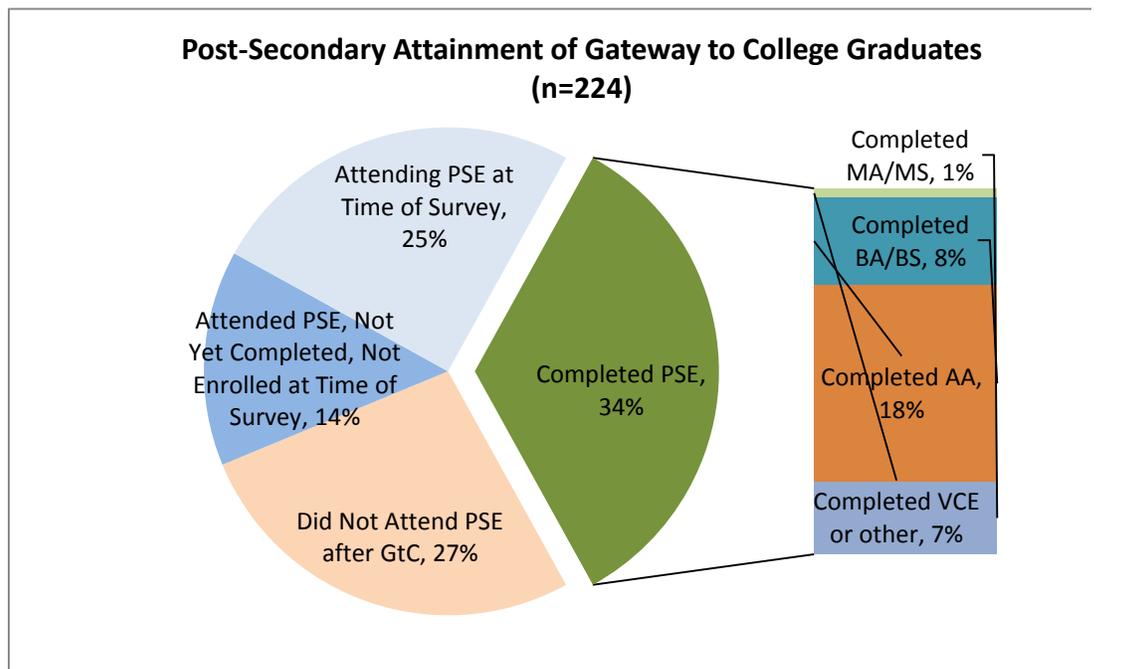


HIGHLIGHTS FROM PACIFIC RESEARCH & EVALUATION STUDY OF GATEWAY TO COLLEGE GRADUATES



Gateway to College is a national program that serves high school dropouts and young people who are significantly behind in high school credits and unlikely to graduate. Students enter the program with an average high school GPA of 1.5 and only 40% of the credits they need for a diploma. The vast majority of Gateway to College students are first-generation college goers and nearly two-thirds are students of color.

KEY FINDINGS

- **73%** of the survey respondents attended post-secondary education (PSE) after GtC and almost **40%** have been on the Dean's list while pursuing education after GtC
- **34%** had already earned post-secondary credentials at the time of the survey
- Just under **50%** of those who attended PSE have done volunteer work and nearly a third have participated in student clubs
- **89%** of all survey respondents plan to continue their education in the next 5 years
- Of those who have attended PSE since graduation, **83%** aspire to a BA or higher

BY COMPARISON

To contextualize Gateway students' success:

- **68%** of students who graduated from high school in 2011, including high achievers and students who had never dropped out of high school, were enrolled in college the following Octoberⁱ, whereas **73%** of Gateway graduates continue in college after graduating high school through GtC
- **35%** of students who started at 2-year institutions in AY 2003-2004 had earned a credential after 6 years.ⁱⁱ Only 3% of the GtC survey sample had been out of high school for 6 years which suggests that the 34% credential attainment result will increase across a six year window, especially considering an additional 25% of GtC students were in the pipeline at the time of the study.

"If someone told me during my freshman year of high school that three years from now I would be graduating with my diploma and getting my AA degree, I wouldn't have believed them."

-Lucy, graduated in 2009

BACKGROUND ON STUDY

Gateway to College (GtC) is a comprehensive alternative education model designed to reengage young people who have not been successful in the traditional high school environment. GtC programs are located on community college campuses and most classes are dual-credit college classes, with flexible class times to fit the life circumstances of non-traditional students. To help students succeed, each GtC student receives wrap-around support from a dedicated resource specialist, who serves as a combination of counselor, coach, mentor, and advisor until the student graduates.

Pacific Research & Evaluation (PRE) conducted a study to assess the life pathways and post-secondary attainment of GtC graduates. The study employed a mixed-methods approach that incorporated both surveys and interviews and was approved and overseen by Western Institutional Review Board. The results of this study were garnered from 224 respondents who completed the survey between September 2011 and April 2012. While the survey sample was not selected at random, the sample was stratified and additional analysis revealed that the survey sample is generally very similar to the population of GtC graduates in terms of demographic and academic variables. In summary, the survey sample is largely representative of the population of Gateway to College graduates.

PRE also studied the continued enrollment of students who did not complete GtC with a high school diploma. This second study found that 80% of students who left GtC continued their education in some form, with 51% completing a GED and 22% earning a diploma through another route. Over 50% of these students went on to attend post-secondary education.

ⁱ College Enrollment and Work Activity of 2011 High School Graduates, USDL- 12-0716

ⁱⁱ Percentage distribution of first-time postsecondary students starting at 2- and 4-year institutions during the 2003-04 academic year, by highest degree attained, enrollment status, and selected characteristics: Spring 2009; Retrieved 7/18/2012 from http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d11/tables/dt11_347.asp