

CUNY START

CUNY Start provides intensive preparation in academic reading/writing, math, and “college success” to students admitted to CUNY whose scores on the CUNY Assessment Tests in reading, writing and math indicate that they are in need of significant remediation. Those who enroll in the program temporarily delay starting degree program studies to take this 15 to 18-week program. CUNY Start seeks both to minimize the amount of required remedial coursework underprepared students must take, and to foster higher levels of persistence and graduation once students start their degree programs.

- The program consists of two phases: twelve weeks of “core instruction,” after which students re-take any needed CUNY Assessment Tests, and then an additional three to six weeks of core instruction as needed, also followed by re-taking tests. Students in the full-time program at Kingsborough and LaGuardia, which use a trimester schedule, may also take a college credit course during the second phase of the program.
- CUNY Start students pay a \$75 student fee, rather than having to use college financial aid while in this transitional program. This allows them to reserve their financial aid allocations for credit-bearing coursework leading to graduation.
- Instruction in the program is intensive: 25 hours a week in the full-time program and 12 hours a week in the afternoon/evening program of *either* math *or* reading/writing. The curricula in academic reading/writing, pre-college math and college success have been developed by instructional experts from the CUNY central office and participating colleges. In addition, all current instructors have spent one semester observing and participating with a lead CUNY Start instructor in his or her classroom in preparation for teaching in the program.
- Results to date have been strong in terms of student gains on the CUNY Assessment Tests. In Fall 2011, for example, 67% of full-time students entered having failed all three subjects on the tests, and 33% had passed just one section. By the end of the program, 37% had become fully exempt, an additional 37% had gained exemptions in two subject areas, and 16% in one area. Those who did not gain exemption nevertheless made gains that resulted in reduced remedial needs. Outcome data from the afternoon/evening program are similarly strong.
- CUNY Start is offered at all six CUNY community colleges as well as at the College of Staten Island. All seven colleges offer the full-time program; Hostos, BMCC and LaGuardia also offer the afternoon/evening program. For additional program information and to find out about applying to CUNY Start, please check www.cuny.edu/cunystart or contact cunystart@mail.cuny.edu.

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Fall 2011 Program Outcomes

Below are Fall 2011 post-program results for CUNY Start participants. Students in the full-time program take both reading/writing and math instruction. Those in the afternoon and evening program study either reading/writing *or* math instruction.

The charts on the left show exemption rates (gained by passing the test) for assessment tests in both the full-time and the afternoon/evening programs. The bar chart on the right shows the percent and number of full-time students passing the tests (and therefore becoming exempt from required remediation) in one, two or three remediation subjects (i.e. reading, writing and math). Students had significant academic needs when entering CUNY Start: 67% entered having failed all three subjects on the CUNY Assessment Tests, and 33% had passed only one subject. By the end of the program, 37% had become fully exempt, an additional 37% had gained exemptions in two subject areas, and 16% in one area.

Full-Time Program			
401 Students Enrolled, 335 Students Completed			
CAT Test Pass Rates by Subject Area	# Students Completed	# Gaining Exemption Post-Program	% Gaining Exemption Post-Program
Reading	248	161	65%
Writing	310	222	72%
Math 1 (pre-Algebra)	239	151	63%
Math 2 (Algebra)	330	194	59%
Triple Exempt	335	123	37%

Afternoon/Evening Program			
296 Students Enrolled in Reading/Writing <i>or</i> Math 252 Students Completed			
CAT Test Pass Rates by Subject Area	# Students Completed	# Gaining Exemption Post-Program	% Gaining Exemption Post-Program
Reading	100	62	62%
Writing	140	94	67%
Math 1 (pre-Algebra)	83	65	78%
Math 2 (Algebra)	109	84	77%

