Remedial Education: Historical Context, Retention, and
Reaching 2020 Educational Goals

Abstract

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Institutions within higher education are called to meet President Obama’s educational goal and the state of Utah’s 66% by 2020 educational goal. However, higher education continues to argue who should be responsible for teaching remedial education. Many four-year public institutions continue to eliminate remedial programs and push the responsibility onto community colleges.

Institutions need to keep and transform remedial education programs if higher education is to meet federal and state education goals. Institutions must consider historical context before eliminating remedial education programs and critically examine current persistence and graduation rates of students placed in remedial programs. Institutions must take responsibility for the growing number of students who do not persist in remedial education. I discuss opportunities for institutions to increase graduation rates of students placed in remedial education programs to reach President Obama’s Educational Goal and the State of Utah’s 66% by 2020 educational goal.