



TIME TO COMPLETION: STRATEGIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Casey Sacks, Ph.D.

Background perspective

- System of 13 state community colleges. Blend of serving transfer students and local workforce needs. 162,000 for-credit students annually – 30% diverse, 56% older than 25, 37% Pell eligible.
- Board oversight for CTE in 150+ school districts and 7 other postsecondary institutions.

Presentation outline

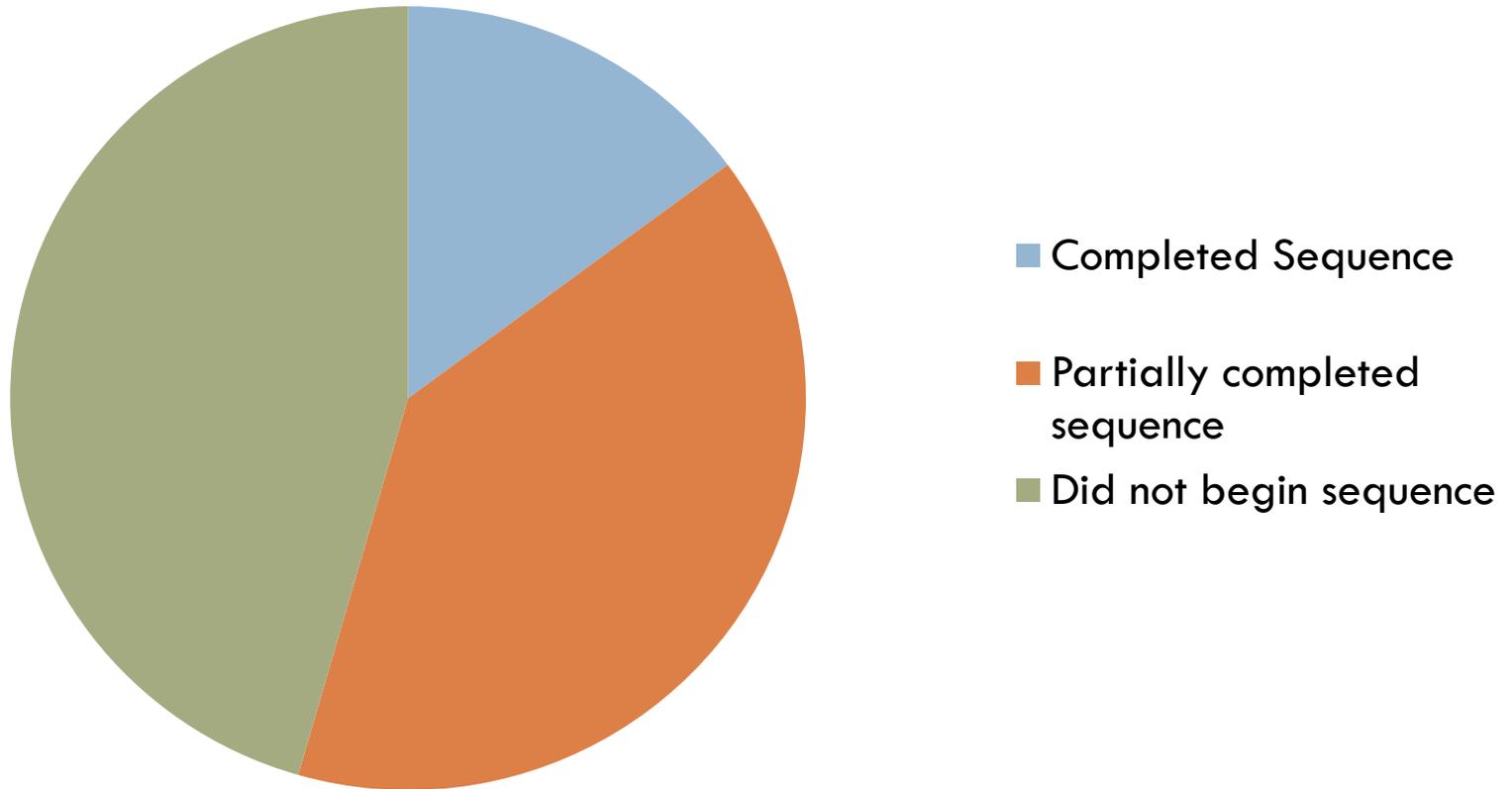
- Redefining “success”
- Developmental education nationally
- Colorado plan
 - ▣ DETF
 - ▣ Current innovation examples
- Articulation agreements

Success measures

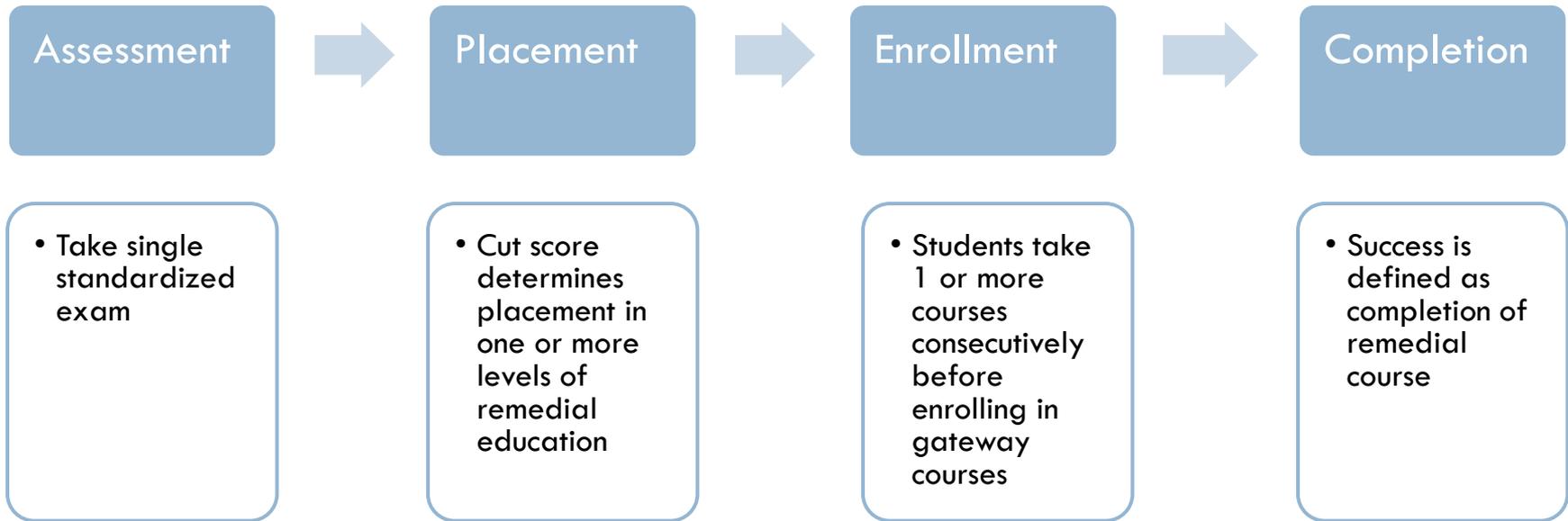
- From course completion to sequence completion
 - ▣ Certificate or degree completion
 - ▣ Completion of college gateway course for developmental education
- From first time, full time to first time
- Successful transfer to a four year school

Nationally, most fail to begin DE sequence

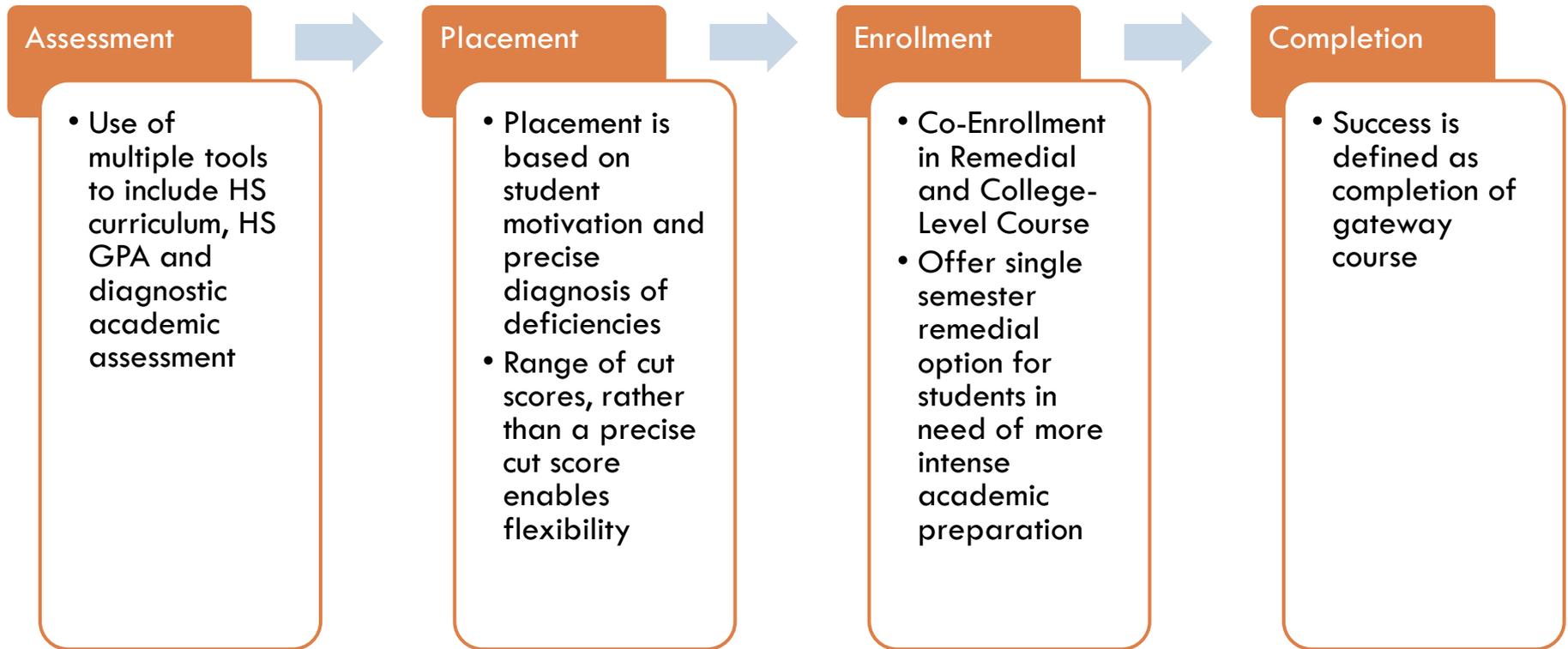
Progress on remedial sequence after 1 academic year



TRADITIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL SEQUENCE



ACCELERATED REMEDIAL SEQUENCE





THE COLORADO PLAN

The Task Force

The Charge

The **Developmental Education Task Force (DETF)** is charged to review developmental education practices throughout the CCCS and make recommendations on what steps the system will take to become the premier purveyor of developmental education in more streamlined and efficient ways, resulting in greater student success.

Themes

- Key metric – success in college courses
- Time, not student learning, is the greatest barrier to success
- Use evidence based practice
- Continuous improvement is essential to long-term success

The Participants

- Faculty
- Deans & Vice Presidents
- Advisors
- Special Services Directors
- Assessment Directors
- System Staff

Remedial redesign

- Reduce time to completion – accelerate students from developmental to college work
- Acceleration
 - ▣ Compressed
 - ▣ Mainstreaming
 - ▣ Modular
- Contextualization

Colorado assessment and placement

□ Accuplacer

- Message about test?
- Student retest options?
- Cost for test?
- Non-cognitive questions?
- Colorado specific?

Current innovations

- Accelerated and compressed coursework
- Elimination of the lowest level DE courses with careful placement of students in higher level courses
- Academic support systems that foster faster course completion
 - ▣ Academic coaching, advising, supplemental tutoring
- Diagnostic assessments
 - ▣ Individualized course competencies developed
- Modular coursework

Articulation & transfer agreements

- Statewide career pathways
- Guarantee transfer
 - ▣ Degrees with designation
 - ▣ 2+2 articulation agreements
- Concurrent enrollment
- Block interstate transfer of general education core



Big Questions Surrounding Completion and Retention



Question 1

- We all agree that student success is the end goal. Given that, if you could fix one thing that would push the completion agenda forward, what would that be?

Question 2

- Much has been written about the faculty role in completion. Can you provide some insight into faculty involvement and how to optimize that involvement?

Question 3

- We are experiencing an equity gap in education across the nation. Share how any of what you described helps close that gap for vulnerable students.