EDUCATION FINANCE AND POLICY

EFP Takeaways

The Impact of Corequisite Math on Community College Student Outcomes: Evidence from Texas

Background

Developmental education (dev-ed) aims to help students acquire knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in college-level coursework. Traditionally, students enroll in non-credit-bearing remedial courses, which appears to stymie progress towards a degree. A newer form of remediation called corequisite coursework allows students to enroll in credit-bearing, college-level courses, while receiving dev-ed support. Akiva Yonah Meiselman and Lauren Schudde explore whether corequisite math improves student outcomes, as compared to traditional dev-ed. Their work is published in vol. 17 issue 4 of *EFP*.

The Study

To explore the effectiveness of corequisite math courses, the authors employ a regression discontinuity design using the scores on the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) placement test that colleges used as their "corequisite cutoff." The study's data come from administrative records from Texas community colleges that offered corequisite math between Fall 2014 and Fall 2016.

For more details:

- View the full issue.
- See the full article in *Education Finance and Policy*.
- Sign up here to receive future *EFP Takeaways*.
- Summary of:
  Meiselman, A. & Schudde, L. (2022) The Impact of Corequisite Math on Community College Student Outcomes: Evidence from Texas. *Education Finance and Policy, 17 (4): 719-744*.

Findings

The authors find that corequisite math quickly improves student completion of math requirements without any obvious drawbacks. However, students in corequisite math were not substantially closer to degree completion than their peers in traditional dev-ed after 3 years.

Overall, and in addition to existing evidence around corequisite coursework, the authors suggest that the findings provide support for the idea that corequisite math is more effective than a traditional dev-ed math approach at improving gateway math course completion.

Figure 2. Gateway Math Completion