

DUAL ENROLLMENT IN NEW YORK CITY: CUNY COLLEGE NOW

College Now is a dual enrollment collaboration between all 17 CUNY (City University of New York) campuses and 240 of New York City's 425 public high schools. College Now serves more than 32,000 students each year, making it the "largest public urban dual enrollment program" in the country.¹ College Now's slogan is "Achieve in High School; Succeed in College."

Through College Now, high school students can take workshops and courses ranging from SAT prep classes to courses that earn high school and/or college credit. The 32,000 students who participated in 2004–2005 enrolled in close to 56,000 different courses, workshops, or activities. Though the participants are typically 11th and 12th grade students in college credit courses, there is a growing group of 9th and 10th graders who are taking "pre-college credit course activities designed to help them meet eligibility standards by 11th grade."²

College Now's "primary goals are to improve the academic achievement of the city's public high school students and to ensure that graduating students are ready to do college-level work."³

College Now began in 1983 as a partnership between Kingsborough Community College and four high schools. In 1998, CUNY expanded College Now to CUNY's five community colleges, and in 2000, College Now was formally established as a program working at all of the CUNY campuses. The program is typically structured as a partnership between a public high school and a CUNY campus. Together, the partners design an academic program that meets the needs of the high school's population.⁴ The courses are taught by either college professors or high school teachers certified as adjunct faculty to a college, and are taught at both the high school and the college.

Typically, students interested in college credit-bearing courses must meet minimum scores on an exam such as the SAT, PSAT, or the New York State Regents exams. However, the colleges can set their own requirements, so some establish higher thresholds while others might choose lower score ranges.⁵ Eligibility requirements for noncredit courses and workshops are less stringent, but do exist.

¹ Center for an Urban Future. "College Now." Newsletter of the Center for an Urban Future (untitled). April 2006, Page 5.

² Ibid.

³ College Now. "Frequently Asked Questions." Accessed June 13, 2006, <http://www.collegenow.cuny.edu/info/faq/index.html>.

⁴ U.S. Department of Education, DTI Associates, Community College Research Center. "New York City, New York Dual Enrollment/College Now." *Site Profiles: Accelerating Student Success*. Washington, DC: Office of Vocational and Adult Education, 2004. Accessed June 13, 2006, <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/cclo/cbtrans/stateonepaggers.pdf>.

⁵ College Now. "Enrollment Requirements: College Credit Courses." Accessed June 13, 2006, <http://www.collegenow.cuny.edu/info/requirements/credit.html>.

Most College Now credits will transfer within the CUNY system, but transfer is not guaranteed.⁶ College Now also includes mentoring for students, college preparatory activities such as college site visits, and teacher professional development. The program, with a budget of \$10 million, is funded by CUNY through its city and state dollars. Participation in College Now is free for students. In addition, there is a competitive scholarship available only to College Now students enrolling in CUNY.⁷

Growth has been significant. Between 2001 and 2005, the number of students in College Now grew by 50 percent, serving 32,000 students and enrolling 11.1 percent of all New York City high school students in 2004–2005. Eighty percent of those students achieved a grade of C or higher in their credit-bearing classes in 2004–2005.

In the fall of 2004, 38 percent of freshmen entering CUNY from New York City public high schools had previously enrolled in College Now.⁸ College Now alumni enrolled in CUNY have higher rates of first-year retention. The alumni who entered CUNY in the fall of 2003 had a one-year retention rate of 82.3 percent; the one-year retention rate for non-College Now alumni at CUNY that year was 72.5 percent.

According to Jobs for the Future, most of the College Now students ultimately enroll in four-year institutions to pursue baccalaureate degrees. Of the College Now students entering CUNY in fall of 2003, 45 percent enrolled in four-year colleges, 31 percent enrolled in colleges that award both 2- and 4-year degrees, and 24 percent enrolled in community colleges.⁹

FURTHER INFORMATION
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⁶ College Now. "Frequently Asked Questions." Accessed June 13, 2006, <http://www.collegenow.cuny.edu/info/faq/index.html>.

⁷ College Now. "Myself Third: Spirit of New York Scholarship." Accessed June 13, 2006, <http://www.collegenow.cuny.edu/students/scholarships/myself3rd/index.html>.

⁸ Center for an Urban Future. "College Now." Newsletter of the Center for an Urban Future (untitled). April 2006, Page 5.

⁹ Hoffman, Nancy. *Add and Subtract: Dual Enrollment as a State Strategy to Increase Postsecondary Success for Underrepresented Students*. Boston, MA: Jobs for the Future, April 2005. Accessed June 9, 2006, http://www.jff.org/download.php/Addsubtract.pdf?file=Addsubtract.pdf&KC_PubID=28.