

TOPIC: THE ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT PERSISTENCE IN COLORADO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION WITH COLORADO STUDENT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (CSAP) SCORES AND THE ADMISSION ELIGIBILITY INDEX

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I. SUMMARY

In 2012, the Colorado Department of Higher Education contracted with R-Squared Research, LLC through Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, to complete a study examining the association of student persistence with CSAP scores and the Admission Eligibility Index. The researcher sought to understand 1) the predictability of CSAP scores and higher education attendance 2) the predictability of CSAP scores and persistence 3) the use of the Admissions Eligibility Index 4) the predictability power of CSAP scores compared to the Admission Index and 5) the relationship between the Admission Index and persistence. The researcher used the Colorado Department of Higher Education's Student Unit Record Data System and data from the Colorado Department of Education to address the above research questions. Results suggest that 1) persistence at both two- and four-year institutions varies based upon student demographics and institutions 2) the CSAP scores and Admission Index are correlated and comparable predictors of persistence and 3) persistence rates of "window admission" students vary by institutions.

II. BACKGROUND

In October 2011, the State of Colorado, acting by and through the Colorado Department of Higher Education solicited proposals from qualified researchers to conduct analyses on specific topics related to postsecondary education in Colorado. The project areas included: Student Price Sensitivity, Educator Preparation and Effectiveness, Student Retention and Transfer Study, Admissions Standards Policy Impact Study and a Comprehensive Remedial Analysis. R-Squared Research, contracting through Auglenblick, Paliach, and Associates (APA), was awarded one of the two research contracts regarding the Admissions Standards Policy Impact Study.

III. CONTRACTED RESEARCH ANALYSIS

Summary report provided.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is an information item only; no formal action is required by the Commission.

