Estimating the Effect of the Student SUccess Initiative on Six-Year Graduation

Graduation rates of students who participated in SSUI were compared to those of non-participants who were similar to them on a variety of factors (i.e., propensity score matching). These factors included: cohort, summer of SSUI participation, academic program, gender, first generation status, race/ethnicity, alternate offer status, Pell eligibility, high school GPA, cumulative GPA prior to SSUI participation, cumulative SU credits attempted prior to SSUI participation, and ratio of SU credits earned to SU credits attempted prior to SSUI participation. Students who participated in multiple summers of SSUI were matched based on the value of these factors at their earliest summer.

Students who participated in the SSUI program had a higher six-year graduation rate than their matched peers. This difference was greatest for students who participated in SSUI multiple summers (76.3% for participants vs. 53.2% for matched peers). Students who participated in the program one time were between 6 and 8 percentage points more likely to graduate in six years than their matched non-participants.

