

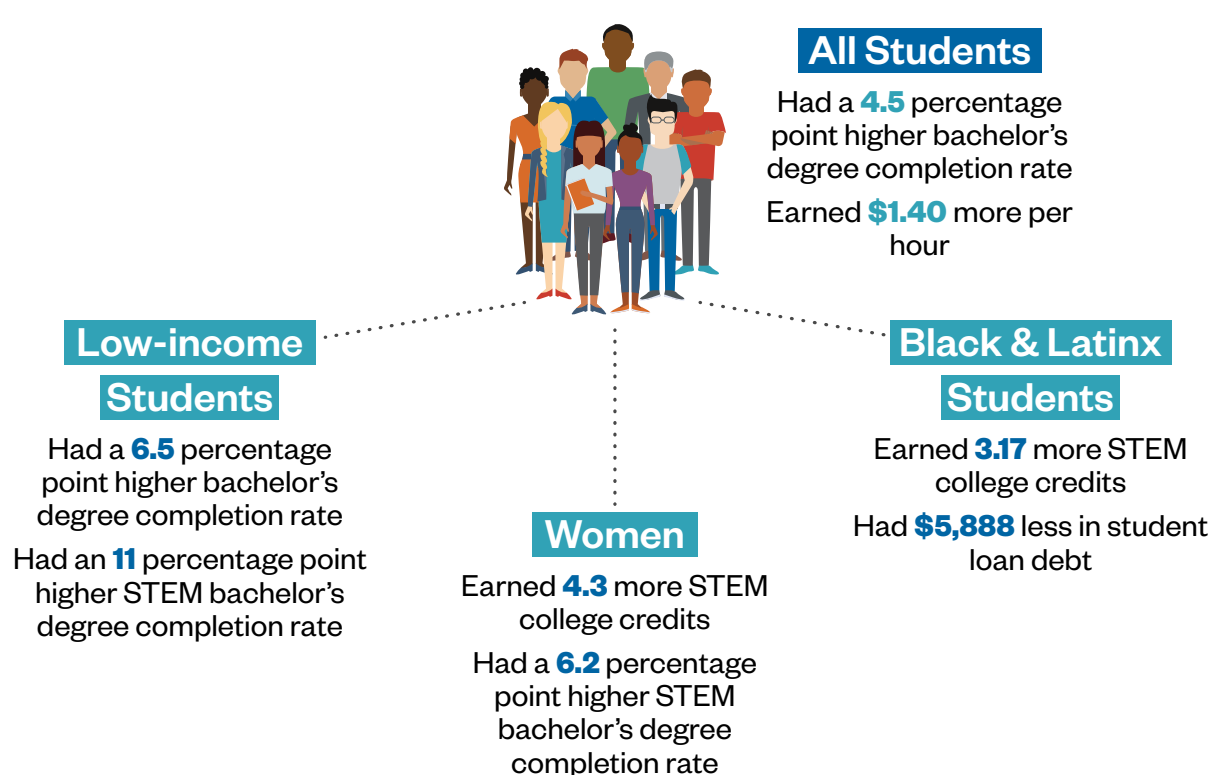
Do Four-Year College Students Benefit From Taking Community College Courses?

New CCRC research based on a national survey of students finds that taking a few courses at a community college can potentially help four-year college students earn more credits and more STEM credits, increase their chances of earning a bachelor's degree, and improve employment outcomes. Some benefits of this type of enrollment at a community college are especially strong for low-income students, women, and Black and Latinx students.

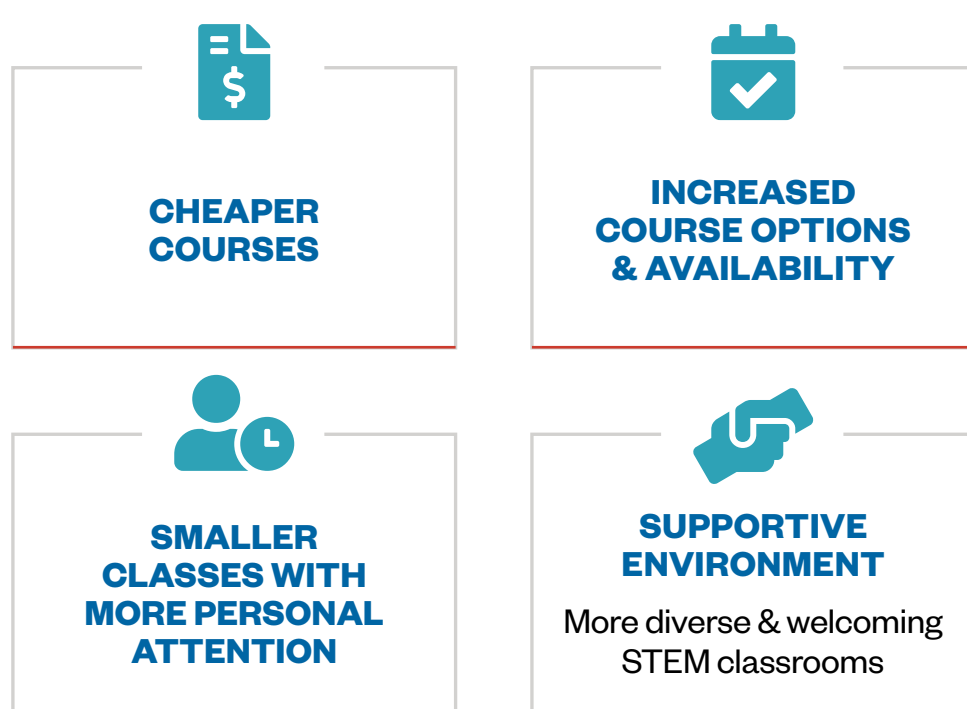
The survey tracked students who were in 10th grade in 2002 for eight years, and our analysis compared similar four-year college students who did or did not earn 1–10 credits at a community college. About 8% of students who primarily enroll in a four-year college also complete a few courses at a community college. We call them *supplementally enrolled* students.

Key Findings

Compared to four-year college students who earned no community college credits, supplementally enrolled students:



Why Four-Year Students Might Benefit From Community College Enrollment



Implications for Policy and Practice

- Institutions and policymakers should monitor patterns of enrollment and outcomes of four-year college students who take community college courses to provide better guidance to students and to build processes for tracking transfer credits among colleges and college systems.
- Community colleges and four-year institutions should explore why women and low-income students succeed in STEM courses at community colleges and scale promising practices across colleges.
- Given the emphasis on institutional accountability, understanding supplemental enrollment behavior could help in evaluating the role and performance of four-year and two-year institutions.

FURTHER READING

For more on this research read *Does Taking a Few Courses at a Community College Improve the Baccalaureate, STEM, and Labor Market Outcomes of Four-Year College Students?* by Vivian Yuen Ting Liu and Maggie P. Fay