ASAP
Accelerated Study in Associate Programs

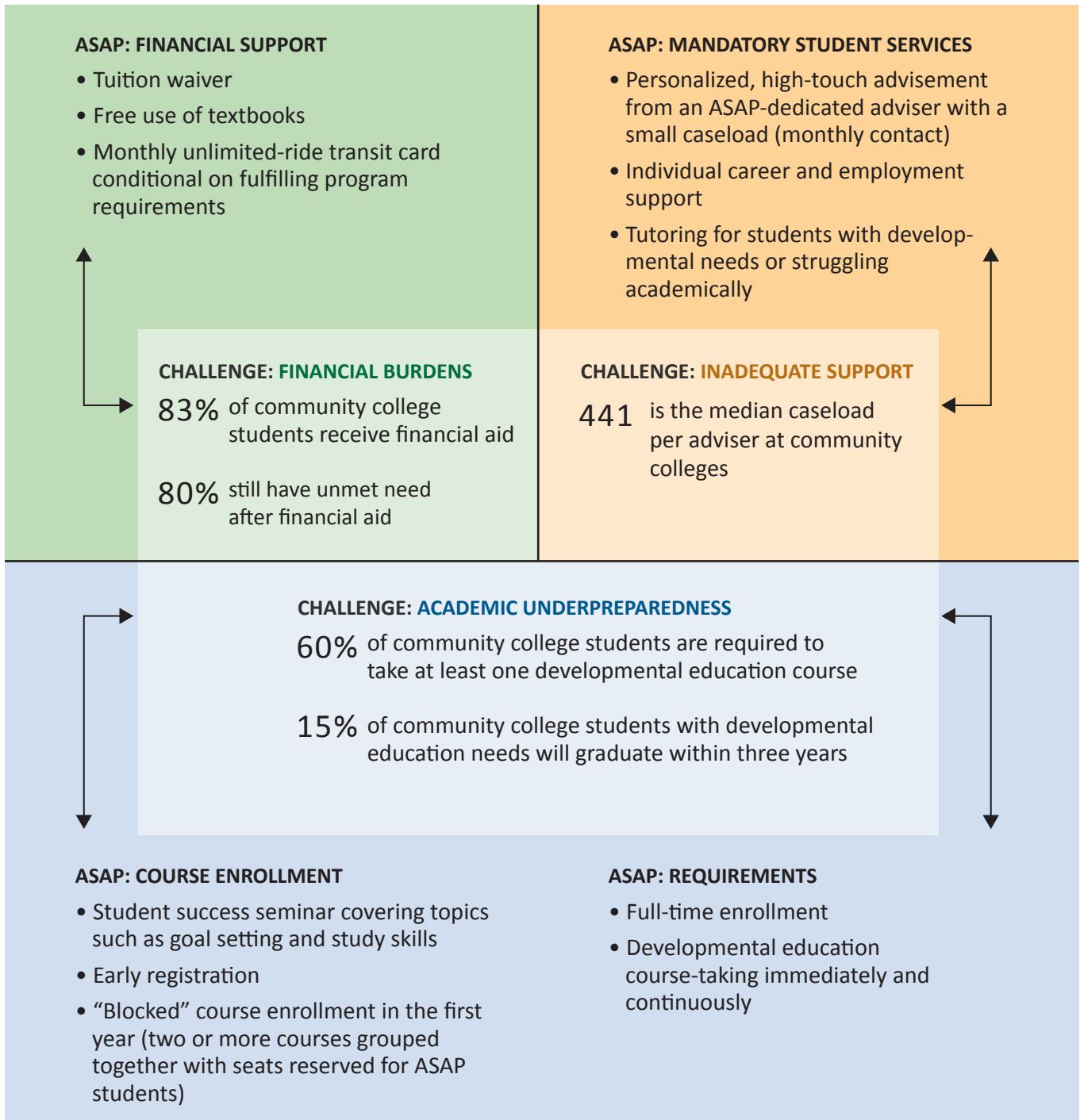A Program That Almost Doubles
Three-Year Graduation Rates

What is ASAP and why is there a need for it?

Graduation rates at community colleges are low, especially for students who need developmental (remedial) courses to build their basic skills. ASAP is a comprehensive program at the City University of New York designed to help more associate degree-seeking students graduate and help them graduate more quickly.
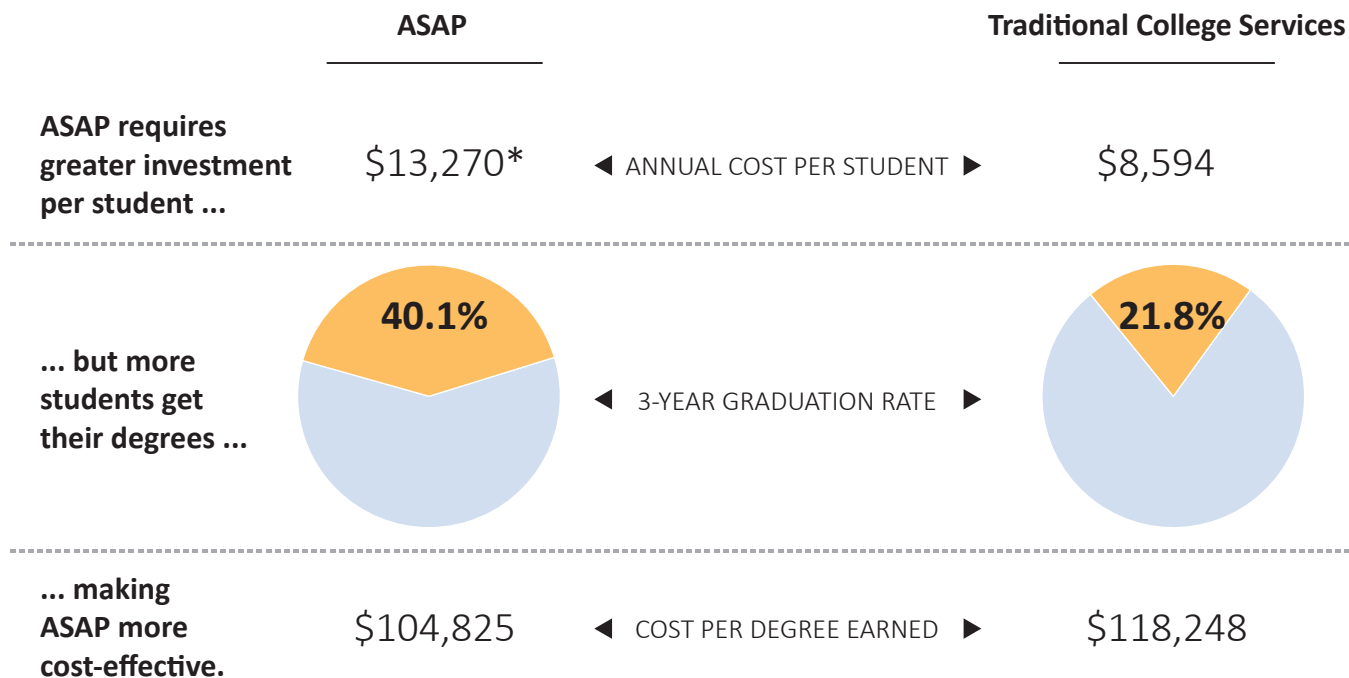
ASAP MEETS KEY CHALLENGES FACED BY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS

ASAP: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Tuition waiver
- Free use of textbooks
- Monthly unlimited-ride transit card conditional on fulfilling program requirements

ASAP: MANDATORY STUDENT SERVICES

- Personalized, high-touch advisement from an ASAP-dedicated adviser with a small caseload (monthly contact)
- Individual career and employment support
- Tutoring for students with developmental needs or struggling academically

CHALLENGE: FINANCIAL BURDENS

83% of community college students receive financial aid

80% still have unmet need after financial aid

CHALLENGE: INADEQUATE SUPPORT

441 is the median caseload per adviser at community colleges

CHALLENGE: ACADEMIC UNDERPREPAREDNESS

60% of community college students are required to take at least one developmental education course

15% of community college students with developmental education needs will graduate within three years

ASAP: COURSE ENROLLMENT

- Student success seminar covering topics such as goal setting and study skills
- Early registration
- "Blocked" course enrollment in the first year (two or more courses grouped together with seats reserved for ASAP students)

ASAP: REQUIREMENTS

- Full-time enrollment
- Developmental education course-taking immediately and continuously

What did MDRC's study find?

Using a random assignment research design, MDRC evaluated ASAP's impact on the academic outcomes of 896 low-income students with remedial needs and found that ASAP almost doubled three-year graduation rates. These are the largest impacts MDRC has found in more than a decade of research in higher education.

ASAP increases three-year graduation rates by **84%**

	ASAP		**Traditional College Services**
ASAP requires greater investment per student ...	$13,270*	◀ ANNUAL COST PER STUDENT ▶	$8,594
... but more students get their degrees ...	40.1%	◀ 3-YEAR GRADUATION RATE ▶	21.8%
... making ASAP more cost-effective.	$104,825	◀ COST PER DEGREE EARNED ▶	$118,248

*Includes the cost of usual college services and the cost of ASAP. Per student costs decrease as the program scales.

Is ASAP scalable and replicable?

In New York City, CUNY has been expanding ASAP with a goal of serving 25,000 students by 2019, thanks to an allocation of $77 million from the city of New York.

Beyond New York City, MDRC and CUNY are working with three community colleges in Ohio to implement ASAP. The demonstration will test the extent to which the ASAP model can be replicated, and if its effects are similar in new contexts serving different student populations.

1 Program planning and pilot period

2 Recruitment and random assignment
1,500 students will be recruited to participate in the study.
Half will be randomly selected to receive ASAP services; the other half will receive normal college services.

| 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |

3 Program implementation and impacts assessment
MDRC will track both groups of students to assess the impact of ASAP on student outcomes, including graduation rates.