

Career Advancement Academies

A California Community College Statewide Demonstration Project



Career Advancement Academies (CAAs) are community college programs designed to establish pipelines to college and high wage careers for under prepared and underemployed young adults. Launched in late 2007, CAAs aim to increase foundational skills in reading, writing and mathematics while enrolling students in career technical training programs that lead to careers or additional higher education opportunities.

CAAs accelerate student achievement.

CAAs accelerate student progress by integrating work readiness, career guidance, support services, contextualized basic skills, language learning and career technical training. Students take classes together as a cohort, forming a peer learning community.

Partnerships are integral.

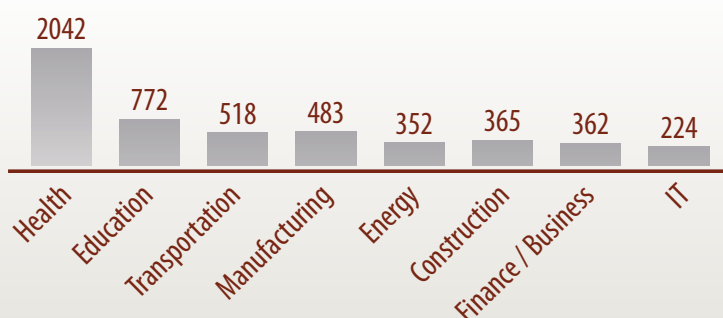
Faculty and staff collaborate across disciplines and departments. Workforce boards, ROCs/Adult Ed, business, labor, social service providers and community-based organizations participate and dedicate resources. CAAs build on strong local practices and instruction to support post-secondary achievement and career advancement.

CAAs have been implemented quickly and on a large scale.

In just three years, CAAs have enrolled over 5500 students statewide and operate in a quarter of the California Community Colleges (29 of 113 colleges) in three major regions: the East Bay, Central Valley, and Los Angeles.

CAAs are training students in high demand career pathways.

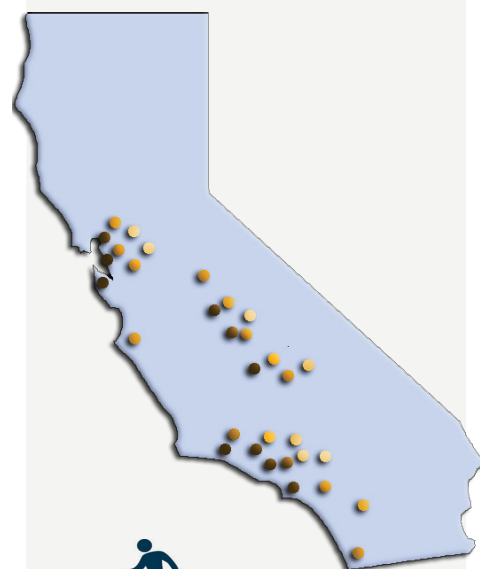
▶ CAA Top Economic Sectors



Percentages in the table above are based upon matched MIS data provided by Cal PASS - Source: Cal-PASS September 2010.



The CAAs are funded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, using SB70 funds from the Governor's Career Technical Education Initiative.



Career Ladders Project

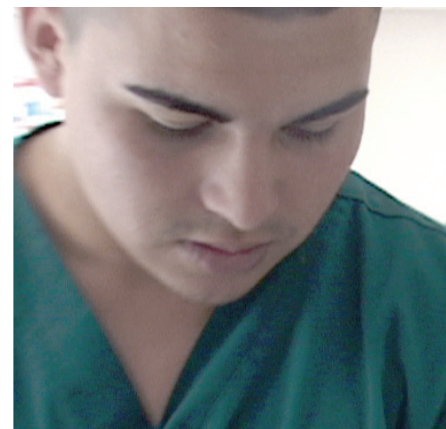
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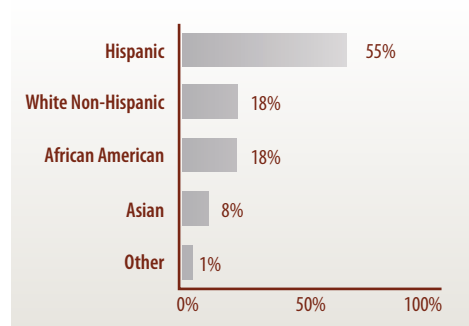
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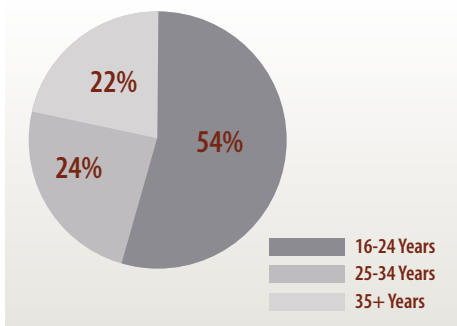
CAAs serve young adult, diverse populations.

CAAs meet the needs of a wide range of targeted populations including people who are economically disadvantaged, such as underemployed, unemployed and low wage workers. As documented by Evaluator Public/Private Ventures (P/PV) many CAA students have low educational achievement (low basic skills or dropped out of high school) and almost all are low-income. While campuses have served a wide range of ages, programs have generally been targeted to young adults; 78% of students served were between the ages of 16 and 34. Students are diverse by race, ethnicity and gender.

► Ethnicity Breakdown CAA Students Fall 2007 - Fall 2009



► Profile of CAA Students, AGE Fall 2007 - Fall 2009



Percentages in the tables above are based upon matched MIS data provided by Cal PASS - Source: Cal-PASS September 2010.

CAAs Get Results.

CAA student success and retention rates are striking, given that enrolled CAA students are generally under prepared for college level work, and face multiple barriers to post-secondary achievement.

► Course Success and Retention Fall 2007 - Fall 2009

CAA	Course Success	Course Retention
ALL REGIONS	75%	90%

Course success is defined as achieving a grade of A, B, C Pass or Credit in attempted units. Course retention is defined as achieving a grade of A, B, C, D, F, Pass, Not Pass, Credit or No Credit in attempted units. Source: Cal-PASS, September 2010

California foundations have partnered with the CCC system, working through the Career Ladders Project to provide technical assistance and policy advocacy for the initiative. Together with evaluator P/PV and data collection partner Cal-PASS, colleges document and monitor student outcomes. Lessons learned from the CAAs inform the larger community college system.

For an overview of the CAAs featuring students' perspectives, go to:
www.CareerLaddersProject.org/videoa/mainpages/caa.html



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