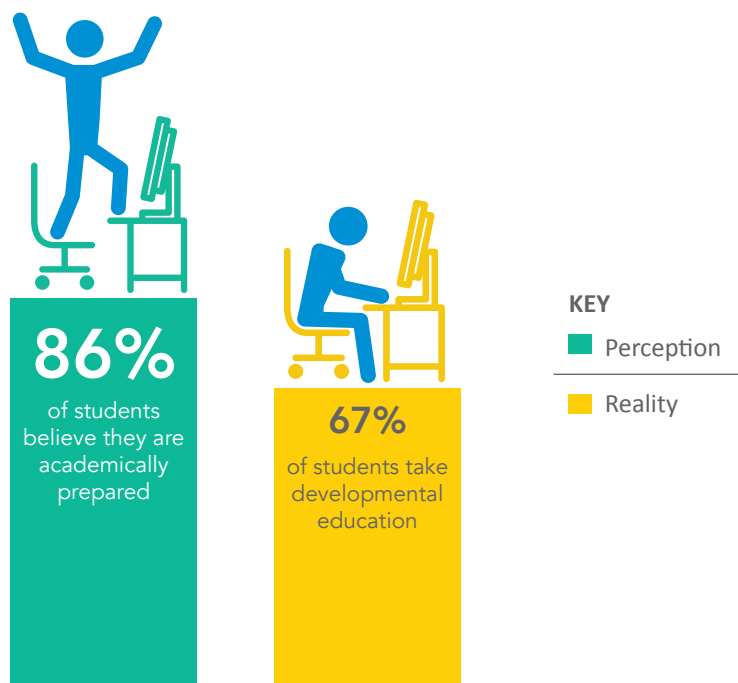


Ready—or not?

Most community college students think they are academically ready for college, yet more than two-thirds take developmental classes.

Disconnect between students' perception and reality



Source: "Expectations Meet Reality: The Underprepared Student and Community Colleges," Center for Community College Student Engagement (2016).



Community college students have high aspirations. In fact, 84 percent of them indicated on an annual survey that they aim to complete an associate degree and 53 percent plan to obtain a certificate. A new Center for Community College Student Engagement study shows about 76 percent of students thought that they were on track to reach their academic goals and 86 percent believed they were academically prepared. Nearly three in five expected to do so within two years. However, the study shows an alarming disconnect between students' perception of college readiness and the reality of attaining those credentials. About 67 percent of polled students ended up taking one or more developmental education courses, and other studies show only 39 percent of students end up earning a degree or certificate within six years. For more information, click [here](#).

For more information, contact Kent Phillippe, associate vice president for research and student success at the American Association of Community Colleges, at (202) 416-4505 or kphillippe@aacc.nche.edu, or Rahel Tekle, AACC research associate, at (202) 416-4508 or rtekle@aacc.nche.edu.