

EDUCATION

FINANCE

AND POLICY

EFP Takeaways

The Impact of No-Loan Program Participation on the Likelihood of Graduate School Enrollment Among Low-Income, First-Generation Students

Background

Previous research shows that low-income and first-generation college students are less likely to obtain the benefits associated with attending graduate school. No-loan programs are intended to expand access for low-income students, but little is known about the effect these programs have on graduate school enrollment and completion. Justin C. Ortagus and Dennis A. Kramer II consider the effects on student outcomes of one of these no-loan programs at a selective public university. Their work is published in vol. 17 issue 1 of *EFP*.

The Study

The no-loan program at the anonymous partner university (APU) provides financial aid to cover the cost of attendance for all participants, includes targeted academic and advising support, and requires participants to complete an academic success course, peer mentoring, and social engagement activities. The study offers clear evidence of the positive impact of no-loan program participation on the likelihood of enrolling in graduate school.

Findings

The findings show that no-loan program participation increases the likelihood of graduate school enrollment between 25 and 65 percent among low-income and first-generation students. Results from this study appear to be concentrated primarily among underrepresented minority students.

The authors also explore the potential mechanisms driving the positive impact of no-loan program participation on graduate school enrollment and provide suggestive evidence that the financial support of the no-loan scholarship, rather than the wrap-around support services that accompany the program, appears to be the key driver of graduate school enrollment.

For more details:

- View the [full issue](#).
- See the [full article in *Education Finance and Policy*](#).
- [Sign up here to receive future *EFP Takeaways*](#).
- Summary of:
Ortagus, J. & Kramer II, D. (2022). The Impact of No-Loan Program Participation on the Likelihood of Graduate School Enrollment Among Low-Income, First-Generation Students. *Education Finance and Policy*, 17 (1): 81-104.