

Mosaic Readiness Index Predicts Postsecondary Enrollment

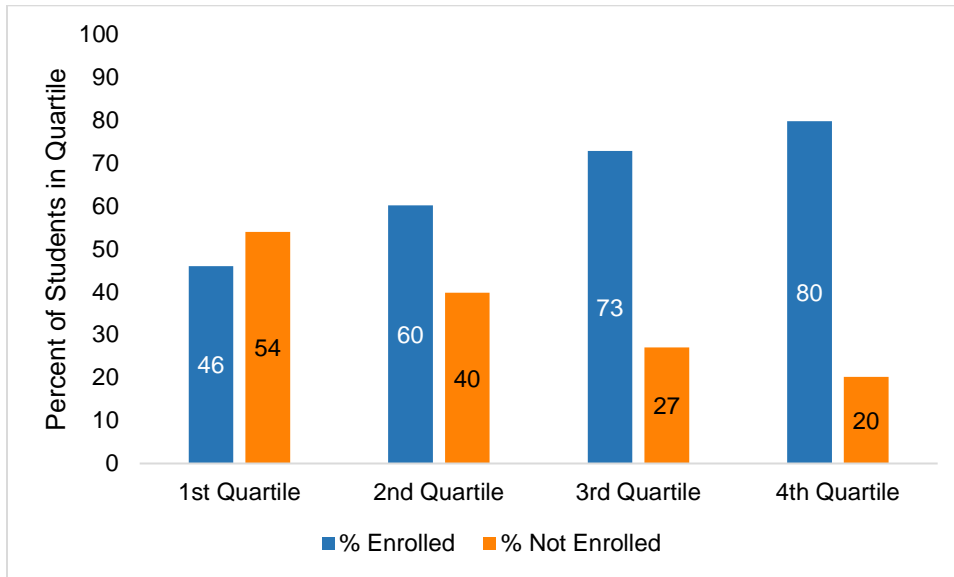
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Social and emotional (SE) skills are known to be linked with many important life outcomes, including academic performance (Mammadov, 2021), performance on standardized college entrance exams (Anguiano-Carrasco et al., 2022), and college enrollment (Jackson et al., 2021), although research on enrollment is limited.

In the current study, we evaluated test-criterion validity evidence for the Mosaic Readiness Index (MRI), a composite index derived from multiple SE skill items from the Mosaic™ by ACT®: Social Emotional Learning Assessment (ACT, 2021). The MRI is the weighted average of an examinee's responses to a subset of items from the assessment that estimates the likelihood of student postsecondary success (see Allen et al., in press, for more information). Specifically, we examined whether the MRI predicted postsecondary enrollment while controlling for other variables related to enrollment (see Walton et al., in press, for the full-length report).

The following data points were available for 1,572 individuals: MRI score, combined parental income, high school GPA, ACT Composite score, and college enrollment status in the year following high school graduation. Analyses of these data revealed the following key findings:

- The MRI was a significant predictor of college enrollment even when we controlled for parental income, high school GPA, and ACT scores.
- MRI scores were positively related to enrollment. This is apparent from Figure 1, which shows the percentage of individuals at each MRI quartile who enrolled versus the percentage who did not enroll.
- Statistical modeling revealed that an MRI score increase of one standard deviation was associated with a 19% increase in the odds of enrolling.

Figure 1. Student Enrollment Status by Mosaic Readiness Index Quartile

Given that higher levels of educational attainment are linked to higher employment rates and higher earnings (Institute of Education Sciences, 2022), it is critical to consider factors that influence students' educational paths, particularly those that are malleable, such as SE skills. This study provides validity evidence for the MRI, an index of multiple SE skills related to college readiness. Resources indicative of college readiness, such as the MRI, can help educators prepare students for success in postsecondary education, the workplace, and beyond.

References

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