College Quality and the Texas Top 10% Plan: Implications for Minority Students
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Abstract

Using administrative data from several universities in Texas, this paper investigates (1) the effect of college quality on completion rates of minority and non-minority students and (2) the impact of the change from race-sensitive to ranked-based admissions policies. I find that minority and non-minority students who attended selective colleges were 18-23 and 29-39 percentage points, respectively, more likely to complete college within five years of enrollment compared with those who attended less selective colleges. Further, college completion rates for students ranked in the second and lower deciles are lower for minority compared with non-minority students. College completion rates for minority students declined by 6 percentage points under the Texas Top 10% plan, whereas college completion rates for non-minority students declined by less than 2 percentage points.