Strategic Transformation: Guided Pathways to Achievement, Completion, Career, and Transfer

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University of Maine System and Maine Community College System Joint Convening facilitated by Complete College America
Implementation Planning

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<td>• The importance of GPS college-wide, why language matters, and <em>Pathways to Achievement, Completion, Career &amp; Transfer</em> (PACCT) impacts</td>
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<td>• Formalizing and simplifying processes with a focus on ease and speed</td>
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GUIDED PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS (GPS)

At a Glance
Most American college students do not graduate on time — costing them, their parents, and taxpayers billions. Using GPS, students make “packaged deal” choices of majors, not random courses. Then they are required to proceed on highly structured degree maps, guaranteed for on-time completion.

INFORMED CHOICE AND "META MAJORS"
"Undecided" students enter college and select among a set of initial broad clusters of majors. As students progress, these meta majors narrow into more specific areas of study.

MATH ALIGNED TO MAJORS
Students — especially those in non-STEM disciplines — are more likely to succeed when their mathematics are relevant and aligned with their majors. Rigorous statistics and quantitative reasoning courses are often more appropriate for many majors. Mathematics faculty around the country are saying that college algebra has one purpose: preparation for calculus.

ACADEMIC MAPS
Students choose coherent programs, not random, individual courses. Students make the "big choices" of meta majors and academic majors — all the other choices of necessary credits and course sequences are then made for them.

DEFAULT PATHWAYS
Students do not "discover" the right path after choosing a major. The academic map is their default schedule. Exploration outside one’s major is still allowed and enabled as intentional investigation, replacing aimless wandering.

CRITICAL PATH COURSES
From beginning to end, academic pathways contain critical courses that must be completed in sequence each semester to certify that students are on track. These courses give students early signals about their prospects for success in a given field of study.

INTRUSIVE, JUST-IN-TIME ACADEMIC ADVISING
Innovations in technology allow student supports to be targeted and customized to meet the needs of individual students. Early warning systems make it possible for institutions to track student performance in required courses and target interventions when and where they are most needed.

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Excess Credit Research

Students are taking too many credits.

ASSOCIATE DEGREE
81 credits accumulated/
60 credits standard

BACHELOR’S DEGREE
(NON-FLAGSHIP)
133 credits accumulated/
120 credits standard

BACHELOR’S DEGREE
(NON-FLAGSHIP)
135 credits accumulated/
120 credits standard
Embracing the "15 to Finish" Framework

Most students are NOT taking the credits needed to graduate on time.

"Full-time" taking 15+ credits per semester

- 29% At 2-year institutions
- 50% At 4-year institutions

Percentage of undergraduates by course load level, fall 2012

- 33% Actually on track for on-time completion
- 26% 12% 13% 10%
- 10% 12-14 9-11 8-9 6-8 3-5 0-2
- 4% 18-20
- 1% 21+

Source: Postsecondary Analytics, How Full-Time are "Full-Time" Students? prepared for Complete College America, October 2013.
Complete College America

• 15 to Finish

• 5 Courses per Semester
• Use of Summer and Winter Sessions
• On Track to Graduate in 2 Years
Complete College America

- CCA & Game Changers:
  http://completecollege.org/the-game-changers/#clickBoxGreen
Key Takeaways

• Boldly confront your data….and communicate CCA best practices/game changers & rebrand as necessary

• Develop an implementation plan and timeline and engage stakeholders at every level

• Infuse GPS into existing college-wide initiatives, organizational structure, and planning processes

• Advising must own and champion GPS
Scaling Up-Engaging Stakeholders Across the Campus

Collaboration with Marketing Department & Creation of 70+ Academic Maps
# Academic Maps

- Course Sequence by Semester (4)
- Milestone Courses
- Recommended Electives
- Advising Notes
- Career and Transfer Outlook
Academic Maps to 7 Career Pathways

More than 70 Academic Maps

- Arts & Humanities Pathway
- Education Pathway
- Health Pathway
- Business Pathway
- Social Science Pathway
- STEM Pathway

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Formalizing Internal Process & Map Management

- Engaging the Curriculum Committee
- Triggering changes to programs and courses
- Cleaning up the catalog and MCC website
Academic Schedule

• Changes
• Course offerings
• Advising
Pathways Maps (Meta-Majors)

- Designed for first-semester students who may still be exploring academic interests and career opportunities
- Help students stay on track and complete core courses, while trying to choose a major program of study
- First 15-18 Credits
Pathways Maps (Meta-Majors)

- Describes general career areas this Pathway may lead to
- STOP Sign for developmental students
- Includes FYE and contextualized career courses
- Depicts programs (majors) Pathway Map leads to
- Meet with advisor to select program of study after Pathway complete
Pathway Maps (Meta Majors)

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Pathway

This pathway provides access to a wide range of programs in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). If you are unsure of which area you want to pursue, you may follow either of the two pathway sequences. The pathway is designed as the first semester of a STEM major. You will take courses designed to reintroduce and expand your knowledge in STEM.

The Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Sequence is aligned with degree requirements for students who want to become nurses, educators, science or mathematics teachers, or are interested in a career in the sciences or mathematics. These degrees are all designated to transfer into your college/ university.

Science, Engineering, or Math

Technology

To learn more, call us at 1-800-910-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu

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Some Keys to Staying on Track

• Pathways Maps
  (Meta-Majors)
• Academic Maps
• Milestone Courses
• Intrusive Advising
Academic Maps & Pathways

https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/advising/pathways.aspx
Advisors and Faculty Collaboration

- Advising Liaisons for Division / Department Areas
- Creation and Review of Academic Maps
- Creation and Review of Pathways (Meta-Majors)
Key Steps for Success

• Regular GPS Faculty / Staff Training

• Continued Alignment of Pathways Maps with Academic Maps

• Managing Ongoing Edits & Curriculum Changes

• Communication with H.S. Partners and 4-Year Partners
Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
Transfer Pathways

• http://www.mass.edu/strategic/comp_transferpathways.asp
• http://www.mass.edu/masstransfer/macomcom/programsearch.asp (2+2 search tool)
Commonwealth Commitment

You attend college full-time & earn a 3.0 GPA. We lower your costs.

Learn more at www.mass.edu/MAComCom #MAComCom
Next Steps

• College Scheduler
• Explore & Review GPS Mapping Applications.
• Recreate Enrollment Process for Undecided Students / Academic Pathways
• Evaluate Academic Pathway Cohorts
Web Content

College Homepage

Campaign Microsite
Discover YOUR Path
at MCC’s upcoming OPEN HOUSE
on the BEDFORD CAMPUS
Tuesday APRIL 23
4:30 p.m. • 591 SPRINGS ROAD
With more than 80 degree and certificate programs, MCC can help you earn a degree, begin a bachelor’s degree or upgrade your skills.
Share YOUR Path with us!
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- A price you can afford
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Environmental Graphics

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References

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