



Guided Pathways

Academic Senate Action Item

4/21/21

Guided Pathways 2020/2021 Goal number 2

Engage the campus in mapping programs of study for OUR students. Possibly create student profiles, evaluate the availability of instructional and support services through a variety of lenses that reflect our student population. -adopted by the SBVC Academic Senate as one of the Guided Pathways goals for this year in Sept. 2020.

The Guided Pathways committee wishes to update the Academic Senate about progress toward this goal and is asking for affirmation or direction in the design of the program maps.

The committee has worked with department chairs, along with their discipline faculty, to design program maps with required courses to meet their transfer major, degree, and certificate in a sequence that allows students to visualize the sequence and expectations of completion.

Department chairs were asked to upload maps to a dedicated shared drive.

The committee provided a mapping template for both full-time and part-time students and instructions for developing and uploading submissions. A total of twenty-four departments have submitted their degree and certificate maps and we appreciate the college faculty in their effort to complete them. Some of the maps uploaded did not conform to the template. The most significant area of variation occurs in the selection of general education classes. Directions were provided to select several options for students, three being ideal, so that students can narrow their focus on completion. This is a fairly standard model for guided pathways implementation across the country.

San Bernardino Valley College maintains a culture of continuous improvement and a commitment to provide high-quality education, innovative instruction, and services to a diverse community of learners. Its mission is to prepare students for transfer to four-year universities, to enter the workforce by earning applied degrees and certificates, to foster economic growth and global competitiveness through workforce development, and to improve the quality of life in the Inland Empire and beyond.

San Bernardino Valley College's Guided Pathways mission is to provide student centered service with transparent focus and commitment by putting student success first through easy access, clear direction and continued support in as little time possible, with campus wide awareness involving the entire faculty and staff here at San Bernardino Valley College.



For programs that do not select an appropriate number of options for students in their maps, we suggest asking counseling faculty to select from the top twenty general education courses students enroll in their first year at SBVC with 1-3 options (up to 5 if necessary). This is a breadth of courses that a student can reasonably count on being offered every term of their enrollment at the college and clarifies the expectations for students necessary to complete their goal:

“The General Education (GE) Jungle. Students able to zero in on a preferred program of study confront another convoluted decision: selecting a handful of GE courses from a stunning array of course offerings. Among the large colleges, the average number of required GE courses was 8 to be selected from an average of 365 eligible GE course offerings. On average, the medium colleges required 7 GE courses, yet offered 212 from which students could choose.

To make educated choices among the GE assortment, students must read through course descriptions and draw conclusions about which will best prepare them to “participate in a diverse and complex society,” as one college framed it. Students following this roadmap may also be flummoxed to figure which among all the courses listed are available in any given term. That ciphering requires cross-referencing with another guidebook altogether—the course schedule.”¹

We trust the judgment of our counselors in this task and anticipate the top twenty general education offerings may be modified periodically as enrollment trends change over time, perhaps every five years.

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The Guided Pathways committee believes this is the most reasonable path forward. We wanted to provide an update to the Academic Senate and provide the opportunity to clarify the Senate's intent in this matter through approval of this approach or additional direction.

Footnote:

1: <https://asccc.org/content/california-community-college-catalogs-student-guide-or-student-jungle>

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