GEMS: Guided Pathways for Transfer and Student Success

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North Texas Community College Consortium

Who we are
20 community colleges across North Texas

What we do
• Professional development
• Leadership programs
• Facilitate multi-institutional communication, cooperation, and collaboration
  ➢ The North Texas Regional Transfer Collaborative
North Texas Community College Consortium

Who we impact

NTCCC represents 225,298 enrollments (32% of all Texas community, junior, and technical college enrollments), in conjunction with 14 universities representing 240,497 enrollments (37% of all Texas public university undergraduate enrollments).
Transfer Collaborative

NTCCC
Community College Participants (19)

- Cisco College
- Collin College
- Dallas County Community College District (7)
- Del Mar College
- Grayson College
- Hill College
- North Central Texas College
- Paris Junior College
- Tarrant County College
- Trinity Valley Community College
- Tyler Junior College
- Vernon College
- Weatherford College
Transfer Collaborative

NTCCC University Partners (14)

- Midwestern State University
- Stephen F. Austin State University
- Tarleton State University
- Texas A&M University–Commerce
- Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
- Texas Christian University
- Texas Tech University
- Texas Wesleyan University
- Texas Woman's University
- University of North Texas
- University of North Texas–Dallas
- University of Texas–Arlington
- University of Texas–Dallas
- University of Texas–Tyler
- ICUT (Independent Colleges & Universities of Texas)
GEMS/Transfer Collaborative Accomplishments

- **Creation of a Common Template**
  - Easier for students / easier for all institutions
  - Eliminating the need for one-to-one agreements
  - Allows for comparison across programs

- **Population of the Templates**
  - Not “degree plans” but “guided pathways” illustrating alignments from community college to university
  - First round posted Fall 2016; second round, Fall 2017

- **Posting on a Common, Neutral Site**
  [http://www.ntxccc.org/pathways](http://www.ntxccc.org/pathways)

- **Plan for Sustainability**
  - Three meetings per year to update annually
GEMS/Transfer Collaborative Challenges

- 60 x 30 Texas Strategic Plan for Higher Ed
  - 60% of Texans (25 – 34 years old) attain college certificate or degree by 2030
  - How do we measure Marketable skills?
  - How do we implement Signature work?

How does one of our community colleges approach this challenge using guided pathways?
Students who enroll in college should start their academic journey with two goals:

1. Complete a credential that allows them to earn a living wage
2. Build a career that enables them to grow personally and professionally as they support their families and their communities.

To reach these goals, students need a clear, concise map that takes them through each step, course, and bridge to reach the next level of their journey.
Why Guided **Pathways**?

- Simplify core requirements, electives, sequence
- Reduce excess credit hours
- Include career and labor market information
- Include university transfer options
- Utilize faculty expertise
- Prioritize highest enrollment and transfer programs
Why **Guided Pathways?**

- Provide students with clear and actionable information they need to get off to the right start in college.
- Include non-cognitive, career, and other diagnostic assessments which support program of study exploration and choice.
- Structured onboarding **requires a fundamental redesign in how colleges advise and support students.**
Guided Pathways for Transfer

The “map” is not intended to replace a degree audit, but to function as a guided pathway for students, leading to informed decision-making.

The template does not create policy, but rather organizes already existing information at each college into a single readable and consistent form. It is structured as a full time eight semester pathway, but can also be used as a checklist for part-time students.
From associate’s degree @ community college
to a bachelor’s degree
@ university