



Guided Pathways Update

Guided Pathways was designed to significantly increase the “outcomes” component of the Chancellor’s Vision for Success. The Guided Pathways framework creates a highly structured approach to student success that provides all students with a set of clear course-taking patterns to promote better enrollment decisions and prepares students for future success. The Guided Pathways framework also integrates support services in ways that make it easier for students to get the help they need during every step of their community college experience.

College of the Desert has been very active this past year implementing the Guided Pathways framework. This began with the building of “Pillar Teams”, made up of faculty, staff, students and leadership, and were approved at CPC. A summary of their work is below:

Pillar Team I: (Create clear curricular pathways to employment and further education.)

- Meta Major sorting activities were done with local High School students during campus visits. (Mecca & Indio students & staff April 10th, Palm Desert students & staff April 25th, and Palm Springs students & staff April 29th.)
- Over 700 sorting responses were received.
- Research worked with the Pillar 1 Co-chairs to identify common Meta Major categories over summer.
- Meta major categories are expected to go to AFS & CPC for approval in early Fall.

Pillar Team II: (Help students choose and enter their pathway)

- Using content created by Math & English, the team is working on an AB 705 self-guided placement tool for students.
- The tool is a self-paced Canvas course with open access.
- The English & ESL portion is complete, and Math is revising their section based on new limitations set by the Chancellor’s office.
- AFS approve the Math and English/ESL content and the placement tool is expected to be uploaded to the “Guided Self Placement” website page over the summer. A video will be developed in the Fall to accompany the website information.

Pillar Team III: (Help students stay on the path)

- The team decided to focus their initial work on campus-wide communication regarding all of the support services available to students.
- A schedule is being developed where presentations will be given consistently in multiple venues to inform faculty and staff about the services.
- The team is looking into multiple ways to develop orientations for adjunct faculty and classified staff.

- Other means for sharing news/updates/info across the campus are being explored, such as a monthly e-newsletter, and through social media.

Pillar Team IV: (Ensure that learning is happening with intentional outcomes)

- Worked with the Research Office to develop a data needs assessment survey for faculty and students.
- Are working to encourage faculty to adopt flexibly licensed zero or low-cost textbooks.
- Explored opportunities to increase work experience opportunities. The goal is to promote work experience earlier in a students' academic path.

Collaborations/Initiatives:

Education Insights Center

College of the Desert is participating in research conducted through the state Chancellor's Office. The purpose is to track a college's experience in developing and implementing Guided Pathways, and how useful the Chancellor's Office supports have been in helping colleges implement the framework.

Inland Empire Guided Pathways Consortium

College of the Desert is participating in a local Guided Pathways consortium, designed to both support each participating college with the implementation of Guided Pathways, and to develop and utilize data to potentially apply for a Guided Pathways grant.

Research:

In order to better understand our students needs/challenges, the College hired Interact to complete multiple studies:

- The College of the Desert sought to gather student input to assess the extent to which current support services were accessible and effective in helping students make progress toward degree completion and/or transfer to a four year university. The College received feedback from over 1000 students.
- The College sought to understand why students did not enroll after applying to College of the Desert, utilizing cohorts from 15-16 and 17-18.

Recent Activities:

There was a general Flex Activity on Guided Pathways that included a student panel on August 20 that was well attended. In addition, three of the four pillars held individual sessions that day. The first full Guided Pathways meeting for Fall 19 will be on September 13. The leadership for the COD Pillar Teams are:

Pillar I – Veronica Daut/Amanda Phillips

Pillar II – Angel Meraz/Dean Papas

Pillar III – Donna Greene/Courtney Doussett

Pillar IV – Jorge Perez/Oscar Espinoza-Parra

Moving Forward:

College of the Desert still has a great deal of work to do with Guided Pathways. This includes looking at data to better understand student needs and past trends. Two themes for the upcoming year include maintaining a focus on the student lens, and building support for a culture where all faculty, staff, students, and leadership continually ask the question, ***how can I help our students complete?***