



Guided Pathways at South: Update for October, 2017

We hope everyone had a great summer and is settling into the new academic year (and reality that summer weather is officially behind us!). As we started in spring of last academic year, The Guided Pathways Guiding Team will be sending regular e-newsletters throughout the year to keep you up-to-date on the latest progress and opportunities to help improve our students' experience, retention and completion.

Recent Decisions Made by the Guiding Team

During the August 8, 2017 meeting, the Guiding Team made two important decisions:

1. **The Registration Deadline was moved from the 10th day up to the 5th day of each quarter.** *The new registration deadline will take effect Winter Quarter 2018.* A communications plan for students, staff and faculty outlining this change is being developed and will be sent out prior to the Winter Quarter registration period starting. Below is some information that led to this decision:
 - Data gathered and analyzed over a three year period reflected that South students who register on time (at least two weeks prior to the start of the quarter) average completing 86% of their attempted credits, compared to only 75% of students who register late (within the first ten days of the quarter).
 - A similar comparison reflected that students who register on time were 71% more likely to return (retention) for the next quarter, whereas students registered late where only 51% more likely to return.

2. **Meta-Majors Version 1.0 was adopted.** In order to propel necessary GP activities, South adopted Meta-Majors Version 1.0 list with recognition that revisions will take place on a few fronts. The committee took into account other initiatives and discussions around the district when determining the list that best represented South's programs and pathways, and the list has led to additional conversations with faculty and staff (with plans for student feedback as well) as we fine tune. Additionally, the Seattle Colleges District Leadership Team has asked that each college submit a list of Meta-Majors so that a common list can be agreed upon. More to come, and we'll let you know when we arrive on a final version.

For those unfamiliar with the term, Meta-Majors are basically defined as a grouping of academic programs – often times with shared courses - that provide students with a clear pathway to graduation and connections between their studies and career destinations.

To give you an idea of the concepts we are working with, below is a comparison of South's Meta-Major 1.0 list (highlighted) compared to some district-wide groupings currently in use. Our long term goal is to get everyone on the same page, using the same groupings:

South Seattle College	Seattle District	Seattle District
Guided Pathways work "Meta-Majors List v 1.0" (approved by Guiding Team)	Colleges to Careers (Program Finder) work "Career Clusters" (created by Prof Tech Deans District-wide)	Customer Relations Management work "Areas of Study" (created by Outreach and Communications Staff District-wide)
Healthcare	Healthcare	Healthcare
Industry, Manufacturing & Construction	Construction, Trades, & Transportation	Construction, Trades & Transportation
Transportation and Aviation	Arts, Design & Graphics	Engineering, Electronics, & Telecommunications
Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences	Social & Human Services, & Education	Arts, Design & Graphics
Sciences, Engineering & Math	Engineering & Electronics	Social Sciences & Humanities
Information Technology & Web	Environmental Science & Sustainability	English as a Second Language and Adult Basic Education
Business & Accounting	Information Technology & Web	Education
Culinary, Wine & Hospitality	Business, Hospitality & Culinary	General Studies

	Math & Sciences
	Environmental Studies & Sustainability
	Information Technology, Computing, & Web
	Business & Accounting
	Culinary & Hospitality
	Undecided

Both the registration deadline change and Meta-Majors 1.0 list were the culmination of many months of work by two separate committees, and both are outcomes intended to build a more structured student experience.

New Guiding Team Structure

In order to clarify the work of the Guiding Team, align with essential elements of Guided Pathways, and provide opportunities for everyone at South to get involved, a new structure was adopted by the Guiding Team.

Four committees will be formed aligning with the four pillars of Guided Pathways; Clarify the Path, Get Students on the Path, Keep Students on the Path, and Ensure Students are Learning. These Pillar Committees will be responsible for tracking, organizing, and reporting on the work related to that pillar. They will take a long and broad view of the work to provide leadership and direction.

Within the Pillar Committees, Special Task Forces will be created. These task forces will engage in the work of assessing current practices and policies, identifying best practices, gather needed data, and recommending changes. Some examples of this type of work are the Later Registration and Meta-Major committees that resulted in Guiding Team decisions this year.

Supporting both the Pillar Committees and Task Forces will be the Implementation Support Workgroups such as; Communications, Staff and Faculty Engagement, and Student Feedback/Focus Groups.

This new structure will require and encourage broad engagement from many members of our campus community. As these committees and taskforces evolve, please be watching for further communication and information on to get involved and be part of this work!

AACC Institute #6 Update

At the end of October the sixth and final American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Guided Pathways Institute will be held in Seattle. South is one of thirty colleges across the nation and one of three community colleges in Washington State to participate in these institutes. Per Interim President Peter Lortz, “the Guided Pathways AACC opportunity has positioned the College to become a national, regional and state leader in the Guided Pathways work and discussion. We have benefited greatly from the professional development, guidance and mentorship the grant has provided. It has, and continues to give us the framework and mindset to move this work forward.”

College Spark Five Year Plan (Year Two Focus)

South is entering its second year of a five-year grant from the College Spark Foundation. This grant provides \$100K a year for five years to support implementation of Guided Pathway redesigns. As part of our first-year reporting requirements, in Spring 2017 South was required to provide a detailed 5-year project plan that outlined specific essential Guided Pathways practices and how to implement and scale each of those practices. Throughout the 17-18 academic year (year two of the grant) the plan has us focusing on the following areas:

1. Meta-Majors Approved and Implemented
2. Design Exploratory Sequence for Undecided Students
3. Degree Maps Approved and Implemented
4. Refine and Update Communications Materials – both for students and staff and faculty
 - a. Updated Website
5. Technology Plan / Recommendation Implemented
 - a. What technology tools are needed to support student success and Guided Pathways.
6. Advising Plan Approved

7. Intake Plan Approved

Guided Pathways Website is Up and Running

We've launched a [Guided Pathways section of our website](#) in hopes of better informing staff and faculty on this transformative undertaking. Always a work in progress, please explore our content and let us know how it can be improved to better serve and inform you – thanks!

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Questions, comments, ideas? Contact the Guiding Team at SSCPathways@seattlecolleges.edu or chat with any of the [team members](#).

Guided Pathways at South is a collective effort to culturally and systematically change the way our students interact and engage with the College. From prior to enrollment through completion, we are pursuing a strategic integration of our systems, services and instruction that will ultimately remove barriers and confusion, while promoting an increase in retention, completion and the closing of achievement gaps among our students. Student's experiences will be heightened with tools, resources and supports that are clear, structured and defined that increase their success, development and achievement. Our students will know why they are here.... how we support.... and how to succeed.