McHenry County College

Community Colleges and Careers

Lake County Green, Terri Berryman, MCC Executive Dean
Community College Facts

- 65% of the students enrolled in Illinois public higher education attend Community Colleges
- Earning an Associate of Applied Science or long-term certificate adds more than $570,000 in lifetime earnings
- There are 48 CC’s in Illinois....
- Offering AA, AS, AAS and certificates in literally hundreds of fields

Source: Illinois Community College Board website http://www.iccb.org/
However…

- Low graduation rate – Illinois graduation rate is about 10%
- Many students must take developmental coursework prior to starting major courses
- Many students never complete dev coursework
- Options for courses are overwhelming and confusing
- Student to advisor ratios are high
INFORMED CHOICE AND "META MAJORS"

"Undeclared" 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

College algebra has only one purpose: preparation for calculus, which most non-STEM majors don’t need. Students are far more likely to succeed when mathematics are relevant and aligned to their majors. For many programs of study, rigorous statistics and quantitative reasoning courses are more appropriate.

ACADEMIC MAPS

Students choose coherent programs, not random, individual courses. After students make the “big choices” of meta majors and academic majors, all the other choices of necessary credits and course sequences are laid out 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 ACADEMIC ADVISING

Innovations in technology allow supports to be targeted and customized to meet the needs of individual students. Early warning systems make it possible for institutions to track performance in required courses and target interventions when and where they are most needed.
Promising Practices

- High school partnerships focused on secondary math curriculum
- Dual-credit programs with high schools
- Illinois Pathway to Results
- High school and 4-year partnership focused on strengthening advising
- Non-credit to credit bridges
- Credit for Prior Learning
Thank You

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