

# North Carolina and Guided Pathways

College students are more likely to complete a degree in a timely fashion if they choose a program and develop an academic plan early on, have a clear road map of the courses they need to complete a credential, and receive guidance and support to help them stay on track. Guided pathways is a framework that integrates these and other evidence-based reforms and, most important, aims to make them part of every student's college experience.



The guided pathways framework brings coherence to the many efforts necessary to move the needle on college completion. The work North Carolina has undertaken in the past decade—including the Developmental Education Initiative (DEI), Completion by Design (CBD), and the Student Success Learning Institute (SSLI)—and the North Carolina Student Success Center's ongoing efforts all fit within the guided pathways framework.

## PLANNING

### ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS

- Building NC talent by identifying and training pathways implementation coaches
- Building NC talent by identifying and training coordinators for RISE\*
- Conducting policy advocacy
- One door, one college: Simplifying students' entry into and progress through college, regardless of their entry point (e.g., basic skills or CCR, continuing education, curriculum program)
- Improving the quality of data available to all stakeholders to allow for data-based decision making
- Continuing to review and base decisions on disaggregated data
- Instilling an equity framework for every aspect of the college's work
- Conducting the Scale of Adoption Assessment (SOAA) annually

### PREPARATION/AWARENESS

- Conducting NC guided pathways institutes for implementation cohort colleges
- Providing training in key areas (financial stability, faculty teaching and learning, and advising redesign) for all colleges
- Improving Center communications and sharing information about colleges' successes

## IMPLEMENTATION

### CLARIFY THE PATHS

- Career and academic pathways
- NC Guided Pathways Institute 1

- Front-door experience (e.g., mandating orientation and mandating advising)

### HELP STUDENTS GET ON A PATH

- Improving multiple measures for placement through RISE\*
- Advising redesign
- Credit for prior learning including military experience

- Revamping College Transfer Success (ACA 122)
- NC Guided Pathways Institute 2

### HELP STUDENTS STAY ON THEIR PATH

- Co-requisite remediation through RISE\*
- Helping improve academic supports
- Helping improve wraparound supports (e.g., identifying community resources and providing training)
- Helping ensure students' financial stability
- NC Guided Pathways Institute 3

### ENSURE STUDENTS ARE LEARNING

- Aligning programs with four-year institutions
  - Aligning programs and short-term training with local workforce needs
- Gathering faculty input to plan for faculty teaching and learning opportunities
  - NC Guided Pathways Institute 4

## EARLY OUTCOMES

Measure key performance indicators, including:

- Number of college credits attempted and completed in first academic year
- Cumulative GPA and course completion rate in first academic year
- Persistence from fall to fall
- Successful completion of gateway math and English within two years of enrollment
  - Employment and transfer rates
  - Graduation and transfer rates

Evaluation efforts include:

- Annual Scale of Adoption Assessment (SOAA)
- Research for Action self-assessment
- The Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research<sup>†</sup> evaluation of RISE\*

## EVALUATION

\*Reinforced Instruction for Student Excellence

<sup>†</sup>In planning