

2018 MCSS Regional Faculty Conversations

Kellogg Community College, May 22

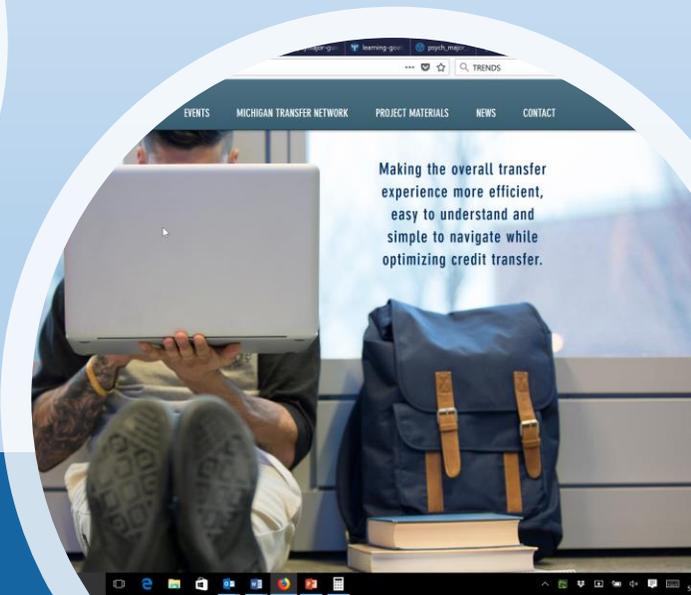
Monroe County Community College, May 23

Alpena Community College, May 24



Updates from MCSS

- June 29, 2018: Student Success Summit Proposals Due
- July 11, 2018: MSSN Meeting at West Shore
- September 28-29, 2018: 10th Annual Student Success Summit at Kellogg Center



General Education in Guided Pathways through a Faculty Lens

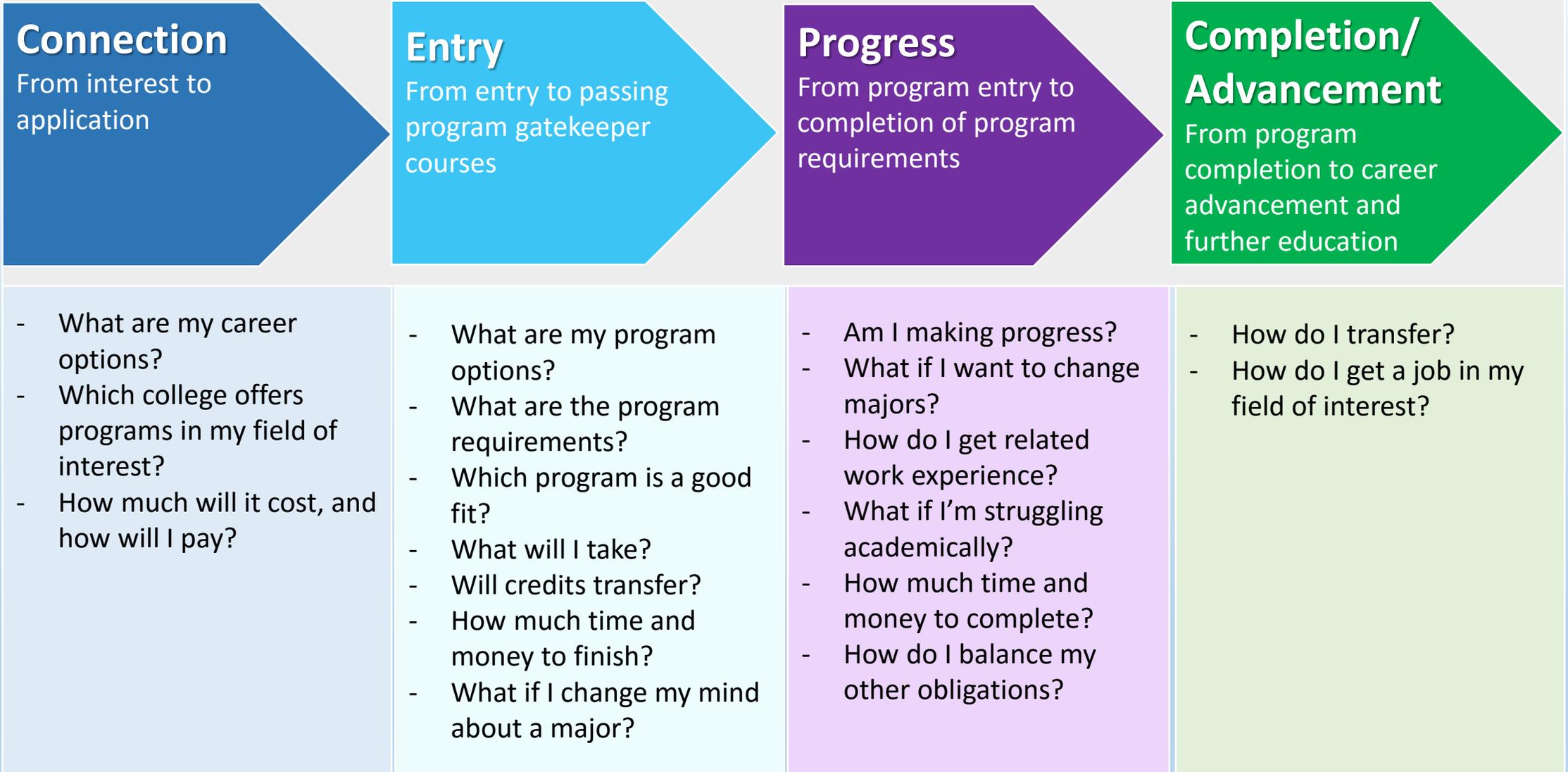
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Loss & Momentum Framework: Key Decision Points Upon the Path



Note: This diagram is adapted from the Completion by Design Loss/Momentum Framework (Completion by Design, n.d.).



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Does Liberal Arts = General Education?

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Two related notions from Guided Pathways

Embed liberal arts courses/learning outcomes within programs of study

Create pathways from AA to liberal arts bachelor's degrees



Some Common Questions...

- Won't we lose the heart of a liberal arts education when we make students' journeys more structured?
- Don't students benefit when they "find themselves" by what looks like wandering to an observer?

[*Guided Pathways Demystified*](#)

Rob Johnstone, [National Center for Inquiry and Improvement](#)



Some Hard Questions...

- Transfer: How innovative can we really be when we're preparing students for transfer?
- Learning vs Requirements: How to distinguish between learning and the procedural aspect of requirements and which courses get included in those requirements?
- Equity: How do these decisions impact low income, students of color, and other marginalized students?



General Education and Guided Pathways: Creating Design Principles

Implementing Guided Pathways illuminates both the problems of how Gen Ed is currently handled and new opportunities to revitalize and give new meaning and prominence to liberal education.



Lunch Discussion

How do you feel about your institution's current General Education program?

- Strengths?
- Weaknesses?
- Emerging Directions?



What can we learn from innovation in the field?



What can we Learn from national efforts?

- Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP)
- Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP)



What can we do to make the
general education experience
better for students?



Recommendations for Design Principles

- View general education as a pathway *within* a program of study
- Provide support for responsible exploration
 - Map programs, but provide opportunities to customize
- Embed cross curricular learning and “soft” skills in more than just liberal arts courses
- Provide streamlined/accelerated opportunities to complete math requirements
- Provide opportunities to complete a sequence of courses (e.g. 2-3 semesters of a foreign language, multiple writing courses)
- Improve transferability of studio arts and performance courses



Recommendations to Guide Process

- Involve university partners from the beginning
 - Promote professional courtesy and respect across sectors
 - Include conversations across disciplines, not just within programs
- Encourage coordination/cooperation among community colleges
- Promote partnership between academic and student services
- Provide outreach to high schools, employers and other stakeholders
- Ensure broad communication prior to action



“Blue Sky” Recommendations

- Incorporate Open Educational Resources
- Provide “free” courses in some fashion—for the purpose of exploration, experiential learning and making connections across disciplines

