

## Grossmont College Student Pathways to Success Project

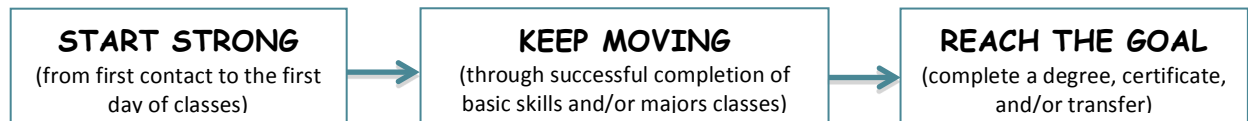
### **Why are we now talking about student pathways to success, haven't we always been interested in student success?**

Yes, but what we are finding is that many of our students are not finding that success, either in individual classes or in the achievement of degrees, certificates, and/or transfer. They are struggling to finish in a timely fashion or are not finishing at all (only 50% of our degree and/or transfer-seeking students achieve a degree, certificate, and/or transfer-related outcome).

### **So what are we proposing to do to increase student success and achievement?**

We are striving to better coordinate our efforts across all areas of the college to provide students with a visible and integrated "roadmap" that can: 1) be used by students as a framework for their individual educational plans; and 2) help them navigate the path of higher education in order to more effectively and efficiently complete their educational journey.

Our goal is to help our students navigate the entire pathway from the time of first contact with the college to achievement of their educational goal. We want to help students:



### **What do we need to consider in this discussion of successful student pathways?**

#### FIRST:

We need to identify key spots in the educational path where students tend to lose their way. These points along the path serve as milestones that, if achieved, provide momentum for moving forward and include:

<b>START STRONG</b>	<b>KEEP MOVING</b>	<b>REACH THE GOAL</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application processes (including financial aid)</li> <li>• Assessment/Orientation/Advising/Short-Term Ed Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start English/ESL and math sequence in first year</li> <li>• Declare a long-term educational plan by end of first year</li> <li>• Continuously enroll in first 3 primary terms</li> <li>• Complete 30 units of degree-applicable work</li> <li>• Achieve transfer readiness within 6 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete a degree or certificate</li> <li>• Successfully transfer to a 4-year institution</li> <li>• Pass licensure/certification exams</li> </ul>

## SECOND:

We need to consider some basic guidelines for student success:

1. **Student engagement** – students need to make a significant connection with another person at the college as soon as possible, someone who "knows their name".
2. **Key intake programs** – programs, including orientation, assessment, and advisement (including financial aid) need to be integrated and mandatory.
3. **Program of study** – programs of study will be clearly mapped and all students will be placed in some program of study from day one.
4. **Careful monitoring** – students will be carefully monitored throughout the college experience – especially in the first term – to ensure successful progress; the college will provide support immediately to keep students on track
5. **Essential knowledge and skills** – students will engage in courses and experiences designed to broaden and deepen their learning.
6. **Student responsibility** – students will participate as full partners in navigating college services and the curriculum and will take primary responsibility for their own success.

## FINALLY

We have been helping some of our students with somewhat isolated or smaller scale interventions (most of which are highly successful) but in order to impact larger numbers of students we need to better integrate current interventions or deploy other high-impact strategies. Research across the nation has identified some of the most successful high-impact strategies, including:

- Orientation, assessment, placement, and career, personal, and academic counseling
- Accelerated or fast-track developmental sequence
- First-year experience
- Student success courses
- Degree/curriculum maps
- Learning communities
- Experiential learning beyond the classroom
- Tutoring and other supplemental instruction
- Early alerts and support

### **So what was the result of our pathways work?**

After engaging college employees and students over several months via a retreat, flex week workshops, the College Planning Forum, and constituent group meetings, a taskforce took the input and feedback to develop a draft "GC Experience" (see attached graphic) with the following objectives:

1. Implement high school partnerships that support alignment of courses, articulation, dual enrollment courses, and high school preparation for college without remediation.
2. Ensure that every student makes a significant connection with at least one other person at the college within their first week.
3. Ensure that students maintain connections to the college community throughout their time at Grossmont College.
4. Develop and provide explicit guidance for student success.
5. Integrate student support services to ensure that students can access all services that will help support their learning and achievement of their academic goals.
6. Offer integrative academic learning opportunities to help students acquire and apply both broad and specialized knowledge as well as essential skills.
7. Improve communications between and among the institution, students, faculty, alumni, and the off-campus community.
8. Provide professional development opportunities for faculty and staff to further support student success.

# GROSSMONT COLLEGE EXPERIENCE: STUDENT PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS



- Outreach
- Welcome-to-Grossmont College letter
- GC Experience Roadmap
- Assessment prep (and post-assessment intervention when needed)
- Orientation, Assessment, and Advising (Academic and Financial Aid) through:
  - “Student Success Days” each semester
  - online modules
- Career/Major Assessment and Selection
- Comprehensive incoming transcript evaluation

**Houses/Academies/Divisions**  
**(with curriculum maps and integrative, contextualized learning)**  
 (such as: Science, Math, Allied Health, and Wellness; Business and Technology; Social Sciences/Liberal Arts; Arts, Language and Communication)

- Students choosing the GC Experience will make the following first year commitments:**
- Enroll full-time when possible
  - Select a major within one of the houses/academies (undecided students will enroll on a first semester "Exploration Express" set of courses)
  - Begin math and English or ESL sequence
  - Integrative learning through programs of study
  - Complete the following activities and track on scorecard:
    - Meet regularly with an assigned mentor (faculty, staff, peer, or community)
    - Meet regularly with a counselor
    - Complete an "educational plan to goal" by the end of their first year
    - Attend scheduled student events
    - Participate in an engagement activity
  - Participate in "just-in-time" tutoring when triggered
- Students participating in GC FYE will receive:**
- Textbook assistance
  - Priority registration for entire first year

- In the second year and beyond, students will make the commit to:**
- Continue to meet or be assigned a faculty or staff mentor from the house/academy they have chosen.
  - Continue to participate in tutoring when triggered
  - Begin meeting regularly with a:
    - transfer counselor and participate in tours of local 4-year campuses and programs
    - and/or
    - career service staff and participate in career exploration activities, workshops, presentations, and internships
- Students will also be encouraged to:**
- Continue to participate in integrative learning experiences (such as house-themed courses, learning communities, Umoja)
  - Select and participate in at least one engagement activity (such as student leadership, clubs, community service learning)

- Automatic review and evaluation of transcripts for students with over 60 units with notification of eligibility for certificates or degrees OR courses still required for certificate or degree
- Provide career and job placement support

NOTE: Professional development is included throughout this experience.