



Talent Strong Texas Pathways Application Questions & Answers

- 1. Is the application related to our past Pathways work with the Texas Success Center?**
Yes. This application is the third round of Texas Pathways applications for Texas community colleges. Each college should convene their Pathways team to reflect on their progress and submit the application. The application provides the opportunity for all colleges to participate in the continued and evolving Texas Pathways work guided by our same Pathways model and four pillars of essential practices. Ongoing Texas Success Center supports will continue to include Pathways institutes for college teams, providing technical assistance through expert coaching, advance work, and college action planning. We will continue to bring coherence to student success initiatives through this refined research-based guided pathways model.
- 2. How many colleges will participate?** The Texas Success Center continues to be deeply committed to serving all TACC member colleges. We anticipate, and continue to raise funds to provide for, the inclusive participation of ALL Texas colleges.

Each college will be provided supports tailored to the college's needs and goals associated with one of three cadres. The application should be used by college leaders to enable the "best fit" cadre for your institution. Please carefully review the expectations for each of the three new cadres with your Pathways team (See the Application Appendix).
- 3. What is different about the *Talent Strong Texas Pathways* strategy?** *Talent Strong Texas Pathways* is the next iteration of Texas Pathways! As such, the strategy will continue to focus on students' end goals of high-value careers. You will expand our work with short-term credentials (similar to the Texas TRUE efforts), deepen efforts to create a caring culture that fosters students' sense of belonging, and broaden supports for students' basic needs, including mental health.
- 4. How much time should we dedicate to crafting a compelling application proposal?** The application is for you, not the Texas Success Center. Like all documents created by the Center for colleges, the application is intended to be used as a tool to guide college leaders in reflection, planning, and commitment to the work ahead. Responses should represent the college's practical discussions and internal agreements about Pathways work. The application is intended as a resource to serve the college and should not become an external-facing time-consuming heavily word-smithed proposal. We have provided suggested word counts for each question as guidance to keep responses short and useful to you.
- 5. What additional advance work will colleges complete in preparation for the April Pathways institute?** The *Talent Strong Texas Pathways* application is the advance work for the Pathways Institute scheduled for April 12-14, 2023. As such, your college's responses to the application will be utilized during Team Strategy Time that will lead to your team's Action Planning at the institute. No other advance work will be requested.



- 6. Will we be assigned the same coach as we have previously worked with?** Colleges may continue to work with their expert coaches. However, as colleges evolve through implementation, some colleges may benefit from the different perspectives provided by different coaches that can act as another critical friend with fresh eyes. We anticipate that some college-coach pairings may change, at the request of the college or the coach, as we prepare for the April Institute. If you believe that your team would benefit from a new coach, this is a perfect time to form that new relationship. To discuss new coaching assignments, please contact Dr. Cynthia Ferrell at cferrell@tacc.org or Dr. Martha Ellis at mellis@tacc.org.
- 7. What is happening with the Hope Impact Partnerships in Texas?** The Texas Success Center previously shared that we would support all Texas colleges to participate in the Hope Center's curriculum to meet students' basic needs. Since that time, the Texas Success Center has pivoted away from collaboration with the Hope Center. However, the Center continues to be committed to supporting all colleges in implementing and scaling student basic needs supports as part of *Talent Strong Texas Pathways strategy*. These supports, created and expanded at your college, will align within your college's cohesive institutional Pathways strategy.