**GUIDED PATHWAYS ESSENTIAL PRACTICES: SCALE OF ADOPTION SELF-ASSESSMENT**

**TEXAS PATHWAYS COLLEGES’ ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING PATHWAYS AS OF SPRING 2019**

Revised February 2019

**Institution Name: Date:**

This tool is designed to help your college assess how far along you are toward adopting essential guided pathways practices at scale. The Scale of Adoption Assessment (SOAA) includes essential practices examined in CCRC’s book, *Redesigning America's Community Colleges: A Clearer Path to Student Success* by Thomas Bailey, Shanna Smith Jaggars, and Davis Jenkins (Harvard University Press, 2015).

**A new addition to the SOAA: Equity Considerations**

A fundamental goal of guided pathways is to increase the rate at which underrepresented students earn college credentials, particularly degrees and credentials in fields of high economic value, while also closing gaps for low-income students, students of color, returning adults, students with disabilities, and other groups with inequitable outcomes. As colleges seek to strengthen supports for all students to explore options for careers and college and choose and complete a program of study suited to their interests and aspirations, we encourage colleges to critically examine each practice to think about how the college is serving students who have been historically underrepresented and/or underserved in higher education.

We have updated the SOAA to include “Equity Considerations” in each practice area so that your pathways team can discuss and articulate connections between the college’s pathways reforms and equity goals. Your team does not need to answer all of these questions as part of the SOAA process and they are not intended to be used as assessments. Also, don’t be concerned if your college has had minimal discussion and/or efforts related to any given question. We hope the questions help initiate or advance conversations about whether and how institutional practices have differential impact on historically underserved groups and how your college can leverage your pathways work to close equity gaps by identifying and addressing causes of inequity, removing systemic barriers, and focusing design decisions and resource allocation in ways that more effectively address needs of underserved groups. In doing so, you may want to include details about how the college is addressing these concerns in the “progress to date” and/or “next steps/timeline” column.

**Essential guided pathways practices**

We suggest that you convene faculty, student services staff, and administrators from across divisions at your college to discuss the extent to which each essential practice listed in the first column is currently implemented at your college as of spring 2019. In column two, indicate the extent to which the practices have been adopted at your college using the following scale:

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| **Scale of Adoption** | **Definition** |
| *Not occurring* | College is currently not following, or planning to follow, this practice |
| *Not systematic* | Practice is incomplete, inconsistent, informal, and/or optional |
| *Planning to scale* | College is has made plans to implement the practice at scale and has started to put these plans into place |
| *Scaling in progress* | Implementation of the practice is in progress for all students |
| *At scale* | Practice is implemented at scale—that is, for all students in all programs of study |

In column three, describe the progress your college has made toward implementing each practice at scale. For practices that are *scaling* or *at scale*, note that we ask you to indicate which semester a practice first reached this point. In column four, indicate the next steps your college plans to take toward implementing the given practice at scale and the college’s timeline for implementing these steps. *Don’t be concerned if your college has made minimal progress implementing any given practice.* This assessment will help your college develop and refine a plan for implementing guided pathways at scale and will help the Texas Success Center follow your college’s progress in implementing guided pathways over time.

In the three rows at the end of each set of essential practices, pleasedescribe the partnerships your college has developed with external stakeholders such as K-12 districts, Adult Education and Literacy providers, employers, and community organizations; the key successes you would like to highlight; and the challenges your college has encountered and strategies you may employ to address these challenges.

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| *We are interested in how colleges connect equity efforts to their pathways work, planning, and discussions. The guiding questions in each of the four areas can help colleges consider how equity intersects with specific pathways practices. As themes, ideas, or areas for future work emerge during your discussion, please note the ways in which equity issues connect with guided pathways implementation in “Progress to Date” and “Next Steps” as well as during follow-up conversations.*  **Equity Considerations in Area 1:**   * Are the college’s website and program pages easy to navigate and understand for students and families without prior experience with higher education? * How could the college ensure that access to and use of this information is equitable for students who have been historically underrepresented and/or underserved in higher education (e.g., racial/ethnic minority students, lower-income students, first-generation students, students with disabilities, indigenous students, formerly incarcerated students, veterans, undocumented students, etc.)? * How are financial costs, potential debt, and economic benefits of program completion (including paths to program-relevant regional employment, projected earnings, and transfer outcomes) made clear for prospective students? Do program websites clarify differences in earnings potential between related certificates and degrees and across levels of educational attainment? | | | |
| **Guided Pathways Essential Practices** | **Scale of Adoption  at Our College** | **Progress to Date Implementing Practice**  *(If Scaling in Progress or At Scale, please indicate which term (e.g., fall 2015) the college first reached this point)* | **Next Steps Toward Implementing Practice at Scale & Timeline** |
| 1. MAPPING Pathways to student end goals 2. Every program is well designed to guide and prepare students to enter employment and further education in fields of importance to the college’s service area. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| 1. Detailed information is provided on the college’s website on the employment and further education opportunities targeted by each program. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*      Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| 1. Programs are clearly mapped out for students and include connections to high school endorsements and dual credit courses. Students know which courses they should take and in what sequence. Courses critical for success in each program and other key progress milestones are clearly identified. All this information is easily accessible on the college’s website. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*      Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| **EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS** *Please share a narrative about the external partners with which you have collaborated as you have mapped pathways to student end goals.* | | | |
| **SUCCESSES** *Please share a narrative about the key successes your college has achieved in the area of mapping pathways to student end goals.* | | | |
| **CHALLENGES** *Please share a narrative about the challenges your college has faced as you have mapped pathways to student end goals. Indicate how you may address these challenges.* | | | |

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| **Equity Considerations in Area 2:**   * Does the college assess whether historically underrepresented and high needs students are disproportionately enrolled in programs that lead to lower remuneration careers? Has the college considered how it can help underrepresented students raise their educational and career expectations while at the same time meeting their more immediate economic needs? * For critical program courses, does the college disaggregate enrollment, pass rate, and subsequent success data by student characteristics? What strategies has the college used to improve overall student success in these courses? * Does the college proactively partner with feeder high schools that serve predominantly underrepresented and high needs students to help students explore academic and career interests and develop viable plans for college? Are dual enrollment opportunities made available to high school students who are deemed “not yet college ready”? Is the college building bridges to high-opportunity college programs for students in adult basic skills programs? | | | |
| **Guided Pathways Essential Practices** | **Scale of Adoption  at Our College** | **Progress to Date Implementing Practice**  *(If Scaling in Progress or At Scale, please indicate which term (e.g., fall 2015) the college first reached this point)* | **Next Steps Toward Implementing Practice at Scale & Timeline** |
| 1. HELPING STUDENTS Choose and ENTER A program PATHWAY 2. Every new college student is helped to explore career/college options, choose a program of study, and develop a full-program plan as soon as possible. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| 1. Special supports are provided to help academically unprepared students to succeed in the “gateway” courses for the college’s major program areas—not just in college-level math and English—as soon as possible. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| 1. Required math courses are appropriately aligned with the student’s field of study. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| 1. Intensive support is provided to help very poorly prepared students and adult basic learners to succeed in college-level courses as soon as possible. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| 1. The college works with high schools and other feeders to motivate and prepare students to enter college-level coursework in a program of study when they enroll in college. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| **EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS** *Please share a narrative about the external partners with which you have collaborated as you have implemented strategies to help students choose and enter a program pathway.* | | | |
| **SUCCESSES** *Please share a narrative about the key successes your college has achieved in the area of helping students choose and enter a program pathway.* | | | |
| **CHALLENGES** *Please share a narrative about the challenges your college has faced as you have implemented strategies to help students choose and enter a program pathway. Indicate how you may address these challenges.* | | | |

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| **Equity Considerations in Area 3:**   * How does the institution support advisors to incorporate engaging, proactive, and culturally relevant advising practices to better support underrepresented students’ success in their programs? * How does the college ensure that underrepresented students are not disproportionately directed away from competitive, limited access programs? * How does the college integrate academic and student support services into pathways so that the support is unavoidable and therefore less stigmatized? * How does the college ensure that low-income students' financial stability needs (e.g., nutrition, transportation, childcare, public benefits, emergency assistance) are being met so they can make progress toward program completion? | | | |
| **Guided Pathways Essential Practices** | **Scale of Adoption  at Our College** | **Progress to Date Implementing Practice**  *(If Scaling in Progress or At Scale, please indicate which term (e.g., fall 2015) the college first reached this point)* | **Next Steps Toward Implementing Practice at Scale & Timeline** |
| 1. KEEPING STUDENTS ON PATH 2. Advisors monitor which program every student is in and how far along the student is toward completing the program requirements. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| 1. Students can easily see how far they have come and what they need to do to complete their program. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| 1. Advisors and students are alerted when students are at risk of falling off their program plans and have policies and supports in place to intervene in ways that help students get back on track. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| 1. Assistance is provided to students who are unlikely to be accepted into limited-access programs, such as nursing or culinary arts, to redirect them to another more viable path to credentials and a career. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| 1. The college schedules courses to ensure students can take the courses they need when they need them, can plan their lives around school from one term to the next, and can complete their programs in as short a time as possible. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* |
| **EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS** *Please share a narrative about the external partners with which you have collaborated as you have implemented strategies to keep students on path.* | | | |
| **SUCCESSES** *Please share a narrative about the key successes your college has achieved in the area of keeping students on path.* | | | |
| **CHALLENGES** *Please share a narrative about the challenges your college has faced as you have implemented strategies to keep students on the path. Indicate how you may address these challenges.* | | | |

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| **Equity Considerations in Area 4:**   * How is the college ensuring that underrepresented students participate in program-relevant active and experiential learning opportunities? * As faculty make curricular changes to better align course assignments with program learning outcomes, how does the college support faculty to implement pedagogical changes that better support learning outcomes success for underrepresented students (e.g., culturally responsive teaching)? * What opportunities exist for faculty or advisors to critically examine their role in advancing equity-minded teaching and advising practices at the college (e.g., critically examining the role of unconscious bias in the classroom or advising that could affect student aspirations for a particular field and/or program selection)? * Is the college disaggregating program learning outcomes data, program retention and completion data, and other assessment measures by race, income, age, and gender to examine equity gaps? How is this data disseminated and discussed among college staff, with students, and with the outside community? | | | | |
| **Guided Pathways Essential Practices** | **Scale of Adoption  at Our College** | **Progress to Date Implementing Practice**  *(If Scaling in Progress or At Scale, please indicate which term (e.g., fall 2015) the college first reached this point)* | **Next Steps Toward Implementing Practice at Scale & Timeline** | |
| 1. ENSURING STUDENTS ARE LEARNING 2. Program learning outcomes are aligned with the requirements for success in the further education and employment outcomes targeted by each program. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* | |
| 1. Students have ample opportunity to apply and deepen knowledge and skills through projects, internships, co-ops, clinical placements, group projects outside of class, service learning, study abroad and other active learning activities that program faculty intentionally embed into coursework. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* | |
| 1. Faculty/programs assess whether students are mastering learning outcomes and building skills across each program, in both arts and sciences and career/technical programs. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* | |
| 1. Results of learning outcomes assessments are used to improve teaching and learning through program review, professional development, and other intentional campus efforts. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* | |
| 1. The college helps students document their learning for employers and universities through portfolios and other means beyond transcripts. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* | |
| 1. The college assesses effectiveness of educational practice (e.g. using CCSSE or SENSE, etc.) and uses the results to create targeted professional development. | ☐ Not occurring  ☐ Not systematic  ☐ Planning to scale  ☐ Scaling in progress  ☐ At scale | *Progress to date:*  Term, if *at scale* or *scaling*: | *Next steps:*  *Timeline for implementing next steps:* | |
| **EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS** *Please share a narrative about the external partners with which you have collaborated as you have implemented strategies to ensure students are learning.* | | | |
| **SUCCESSES** *Please share a narrative about the key successes your college has achieved in the area of ensuring students are learning.* | | | |
| **CHALLENGES** *Please share a narrative about the challenges your college has faced as you have implemented strategies to ensure students are learning. Indicate how you may address these challenges.* | | | |