



Degree Pathways Newsletter

We have a Name!

Spring Quarter 2021

"Degree Pathways" has been approved by Executive Cabinet as the official name for the guided pathways work currently underway at Highline. This decision was reached by reviewing the results from the faculty & staff and the student surveys, adding the response percentages across the two surveys, and also based on a discussion of wanting to focus attention on degrees in service of our goal to increase completions and close equity gaps. You will start to see "Degree Pathways" being used on materials and in reference to the guided pathways work being done shortly.

Degree Pathways Series to begin Spring Quarter



An eight week series focusing on guided pathways will begin Thursday, April 15 and run through June 10. These weekly information sessions are designed as an opportunity to share information with campus regarding the guided pathways work that is being done and to create a space for individuals to ask questions and provide feedback to work group members. These 45 minute sessions are intended to be informal, 20 minutes for presentation and updates and 20 minutes for Q&A and discussion. Individuals are encouraged to come even if they are not able to attend the entire session. Go to the [Degree Pathways website](#) for a full schedule of events.

Degree Pathways Resource for Faculty and Staff Launched

Have questions about guided pathways? Curious about the plan, the work being done or who is involved? Want to learn more about upcoming events or want to review content from past presentations? You can find all of this and more on the faculty and staff [Degree Pathways website](#). This is a work in progress and if there are resources and information that you would like to see on the web pages, please inform [Jack Harton](#). Jack has generously volunteered to manage these web pages.

[Intercultural Development Inventory](#) Qualified Administrator Training

Fifteen faculty and staff attended last October's Professional Development Day session: Cultural competency: *Where I think I am versus where I really am?* and signed up for the individual IDI assessment. The Individual IDI Profile results are debriefed one-on-one with a Qualified Administrator of the IDI (IDI QA). Highline currently has an IDI QA Affinity Group of nine. To build the capacity to fill requests for groups on campus to take the IDI assessment, we need to build our capacity to provide the one-on-one debriefs -we need more IDI QA's! Degree Pathways is providing that opportunity with a three-day training that is planned for June 22-24. To learn more, please contact [May Lukens](#).

Work Group Updates

The Guided Pathways work plan, that has been approved by the SBCTC, is divided into four priority areas and within each priority area there are work groups. There are a total of 12 work groups. Each work group has its own work plan with identified deliverables to complete and consists of two co-leaders and a cross-functional team representing faculty and staff from all divisions and areas of campus. The work group team leaders meet regularly to collaborate and update each other on their progress. Below are updates from two of the work groups.

Engaging Learners-Learning Outcomes Work Group

The Assessment Committee has been working on two major projects under the umbrella of Guided Pathways this year. The first, in collaboration with the Support Center and the Learning and Teaching Center, we have collected and developed resources to help our students outside of the classroom so that they can be successful in the classroom. Faculty will have noticed that their Canvas courses now come pre-loaded with a [Basic Needs Page](#) (accessible to all Highline students, staff, and faculty) that can help locate resources to assist students with any number of challenges including housing assistance, mental health resources, and health care.

The second project we have been leading is the assessment of Highline's six Core Competencies. In collaboration with over thirty faculty and ten students we have done a deep dive on nationally vetted rubrics while attempting to translate and modify these rubrics to be more equitable and suitable for use on our campus and to assess our students. Our hope is to implement the assessment of our core competencies next year and show that when students leave Highline they are ready for their next challenge whether at a transfer institution or in the workforce.

Work Group Team Leads: Shawna Freeman & Aaron Moehlig

Team Members: Lisa Bernhagen, Ellen Bremen, Hara Brook, Natalie Hughes, Diego Luna, Jenn Ritchey, Colleen Sheridan

Math Attainment Work Group

Key Activities for Spring:

- An extensive professional development opportunity for math faculty, Community of Practice (CoP), was launched in March and will run through June. The GP Math Attainment Committee has partnered with Dr. Maurice Dolberry, Education Consultant at A Line in the Sand, an educational consulting and research firm, and the Learning and Teaching Center. Dr. Dolberry is facilitating workshops on evidence-based practices and culturally relevant classroom activities to close equity gaps in math classes. A group of 12 faculty members (part-time, full-time, ELCAP) are attending a series of workshops, receiving contextual and classroom-specific coaching, creating a professional learning portfolio while learning culturally responsive and anti-racist praxis in math education.
- Moving most math course materials to Open Educational Resource (OER) materials
- Assessing pilot implementation of new curriculum for Math 081 and 091
- Building an articulation from ELCAP math to Highline math sequence
- Purchasing new technology to increase student engagement and relevance to pathway and career demands
- Undergoing a qualitative analysis of student learning experience and sense of belonging in math classrooms; what helps and hinders their success and what resources are needed, for both faculty and students, to increase student success and engagement. A survey was sent to part time, fulltime and ELCAP math faculty. Focus groups are being conducted with students during spring.

Work Group Team Leads: Razmehr Fardad, Barbara Hunter & Shannon Waits

Team Members: Aleyda Cervantes, Raegan Copeland, Donna Enguerra-Simpson, Rus Higley, Eileen Jimenez, Jennifer Johnston, Laura Manning, Julie Pollard, Wendy Swyt, Iesha Valencia, Krystal Welch, Nicole Wilson

Title III Grant Update

The Title III Grant Strengthening Institutions Program draft is being reviewed by the consultants. Thank you to the many voices that contributed to the grant application. Eligibility for the competition ended April 5 so the competition is expected to open sometime this month with a due date 45-60 days later. The expected budget is \$450,000 per year for five years if we are awarded.

Highline's grant application focus is on closing equity gaps. Performance will be tracked and analyzed to inform our work. A summary of the draft proposal can be found [here](#).