



Essential Practices for Implementing GPS

While there are many ways colleges and universities can strengthen pathways to success for students, the following are practices that Complete College America considers to be essential to implementing guided pathways most effectively. For GPS to be implemented at scale, these practices should benefit all degree-seeking students.

Essential GPS Practice	On Track?
1. Mapping Default, Full-Program Pathways	
Programs are organized based on default degree maps, sequencing critical courses and milestones that are aligned with specific majors and career goals.	
Required math courses are aligned with the appropriate programs and careers.	
Predictable course schedules are in place and critical path courses are guaranteed to be available when needed in order to maintain progress toward on-time completion.	
2. Helping Students Choose and Enter a Pathway	
Guided career and college exploration is provided from the start to help students understand future opportunities. This includes a rigorous, discipline-based first-year process designed to guide students into majors and careers.	
All students choose a major or meta-major and are registered into a default schedule to ensure they follow the recommended and most direct route to graduation. No undecided students. Minimum academic performance rules are clearly specified to give both the college and students clear milestones and expectations against which to measure progress.	
Co-requisite remediation provides the right support academically unprepared students need to pass required gateway courses in mathematics and English.	
3. Keeping Students on Pathways	
All students are required to follow their academic maps, and schedules are recalculated to get students back on track when they fall behind. Students can easily see how far they have come and what they need to do to complete their program.	
Utilizing technology and professional academic advisors, student progress is closely monitored and needed interventions occur just-in-time.	