GUIDED PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS (GPS)

At a Glance

Most American college students do not graduate on time — costing them, their parents, and taxpayers billions. Using GPS, students make “packaged deal” choices of majors, not random courses. Then they are required to proceed on highly structured degree maps, guaranteed for on-time completion.

INFORMED CHOICE AND “META MAJORS”
“Undecided” students enter college and select among a set of initial broad clusters of majors. As students progress, these meta majors narrow into more specific areas of study.

MATH ALIGNED TO MAJORS
Students — especially those in non-STEM disciplines — are more likely to succeed when their mathematics are relevant and aligned with their majors. Rigorous statistics and quantitative reasoning courses are often most appropriate for many majors. Mathematics faculty around the country are saying that college algebra has one purpose: preparation for calculus.

ACADEMIC MAPS
Students choose coherent programs, not random, individual courses. Students make the “big choices” of meta majors and academic majors — all the other choices of necessary credits and course sequences are laid out for them.

DEFAULT PATHWAYS
Students do not “discover’ the right path; after choosing a major, the academic map is their default schedule. Exploration outside one’s major is still allowed and enabled as intentional investigation, replacing aimless wandering.

CRITICAL PATH COURSES
From beginning to end, academic pathways contain critical courses that must be completed in sequence each semester to certify that students are on track. These courses give students early signals about their prospects for success in a given field of study.

INTRUSIVE, JUST-IN-TIME ACADEMIC ADVISING
Innovations in technology allow student supports to be targeted and customized to meet the needs of individual students. Early warning systems make it possible for institutions to track student performance in required courses and target interventions when and where they are most needed.

Complete College America
2-Year Institution
Associate Degree in Logistics

TERM 1
- General Education Math
- Working in the Warehousing Env
- Introduction to Business Logistics
- Purchasing
- Career Development and Decision Making

TERM 2
- English I - Composition
- Introduction to Microcomputers
- Introduction to Transportation Admin
- Applied Logistics (Central Store)

TERM 3
- General Psychology
- Selling
- Applied Logistics (Central Store)
- Business Communications

TERM 4
- Principles of Economics
- Fundamentals of Speech
- Sociology - Institutional Racism
- Applied Logistics (Central Store)

TOTAL: 15 Credits

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TOTAL: 15-16 Credits*

*At this institution, the first semester often includes a 4 credit-hour introductory mathematics course.

4-Year Institution
Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management

TERM 1
- English I
- College Algebra
- Principles of Microeconomics
- American History
- Elective

TERM 2
- English II
- Business Calculus
- Principles of Macroeconomics
- Elective
- Elective

TERM 3
- Computer Skills Competency
- Business Statistics
- Intro to Financial Accounting
- Risk Management/Insurance
- Intro to Environmental Science

TERM 4
- Managerial Accounting
- Humanities Literature
- Elective
- Biology for Non-Majors (w/lab)
- Elective

TERM 5
- Organizational Behavior
- Financial Markets and Institutions
- Legal and Ethical Business Environment
- Financial Management
- Business Communications

TERM 6
- Human Resources Management
- Business and Society
- Basic Marketing Concepts
- Cross Cultural Management
- Special Topics in Management

TERM 7
- Contemporary Leadership
- Management Internship
- Professional Selling
- Elective

TERM 8
- Strategic Management and Business Policy
- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
- Competitive Dynamics
- Elective
- Elective
- Elective

TOTAL: 30 Credits

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Academic maps are adapted from those used at City Colleges of Chicago and Florida State University.