Creating Degree Maps to Support Academic Momentum @ Brooklyn College

Degree Maps | Brooklyn College | Tracy Newton & Robert Booras

IN SUPPORT OF "ACADEMIC MOMENTUM" INITIATIVE

- Create degree maps for all 89 majors at Brooklyn College for academic year 2018-19
  - Phase 1: Degree maps for first-year students (2018-19)
  - Phase 2: Degree maps for transfer students (2019-20)
    - Phase 2a: Degree maps for meta majors (2019-20 & beyond)

"Degree Maps? For all 89 majors? Where do we begin?"

A TRULY COLLABORATIVE ENDEAVOR

- Solicit support of deans and department chairs
  - Solicit recommended course sequences i.e. "degree maps" from academic departments
  - Faculty buy-in

- Create user-friendly template to present degree maps
  - Standardize template & terminology (as much as possible)
  - Get formal approval from respective departments before publishing degree maps

SOME OF THE BENEFITS

- Improved communication & partnership with deans/schools and chairs or faculty advisors/academic departments

- Thorough reflection on curricula and course mapping (revealing embedded prerequisites & other miscellaneous inaccuracies)
  - Accountability, Transparency (tied to Financial Aid)

SOME OF THE CHALLENGES

- Deciphering the submitted "degree maps"
  - Incorrect or inconclusive (some departments simply copied & pasted info from website or Bulletin)

- Checking for accuracy
  - The credits don't add up
    - Major courses vs. recommended courses
    - Major courses that count as Pathways courses too
    - Uncovering embedded or incorrect/dated prerequisites

- Standardizing the template (making it user-friendly)

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

- Research/Review
  - Hunter, BMCC, NYC College of Technology

- Incorporate what you like
  - Identifying courses as major, Pathways, or general elective
  - The degree map as an aid to be used alongside Degree Works/Bulletin
  - Visual brevity (four-year plan on one page)

- Exclude what you don't like
  - Too much wordiness (stand-alone document listing all course choices)

TEXT, SUBTEXT, CONTEXT

- Text
  - Course codes, course titles, course credits

- Subtext
  - Course designations, recommended courses, placement exam, co-requisites

- Context
  - Endnotes (major tracks, concentrations, residency & minimum grade requirements, contact info, etc.)

THE TEMPLATE

FALL

ENGL 1010 Pathways Required Core	3
Math & Quantitative Reasoning Pathways Required Core	3
US Experience in its Diversity Pathways Flexible Core	3
SOCY 1101 Major	3
General Elective General Elective	3
CREDITS	15

SPRING

ENGL 1012 Pathways Required Core	3
Life & Physical Sciences Pathways Required Core	3
World Cultures & Global Issues Pathways Flexible Core	3
SOCY 2000-level or higher course Major	3
General Elective General Elective (WGST 1001 recommended)	3
CREDITS	15

MAJOR COURSES THAT ALSO FULFILL PATHWAYS REQUIREMENTS; MORE EXAMPLES OF "SUBTEXT"

39 Pathways Credits*	
51 Major Credits	
30 General Elective Credits	
Students may apply a 2nd major, or a minor, toward their general elective credits	
120 Total Credits	

ENGL 1010 Pathways Required Core	3
MATH 1011 (Embedded Prerequisite) Pathways Required Core (Depending on math placement, some students may be required to take Math 1021 and Math 1026, in a two-term sequence, in lieu of Math 1011. See an advisor to confirm your math placement.)	3
AMST 1010 Major (Also fulfills Pathways Flexible Core)	3
AMST 9999 Major (AMST 1010 is a co-requisite for this course)	3
General Elective General Elective	3
CREDITS	*15*

ENDNOTE RE: MAJOR/PATHWAYS COURSES

- The Pathways curriculum is typically 42 credits. However, the American Studies B.A. major includes a course (AMST 1010) that also satisfies a Pathways requirement. Therefore, students majoring in American Studies B.A. only need to complete 39 additional Pathways credits.
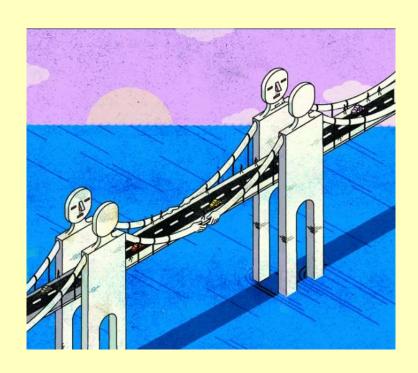
DEGREE MAP SAMPLE

TEAM RESOURCES

- Director, Academic Advisor, 4 NTAs—deans, chairs, faculty advisors

- Budget

- Computers, access to internet/Bulletin

- Various sites (can work remotely)

- CUNY-wide "Academic Momentum" initiative adds urgency

Degree Maps: Building a Bridge to Academic Success

NEXT STEPS

- Finalize all degree maps

- Establish process & workflow for annual revisions & updates

- Work with Communication Office to build website (featuring PDF & text versions)

- Create online/digital system where Degree Maps can live
  - Chairs can manage their degree maps