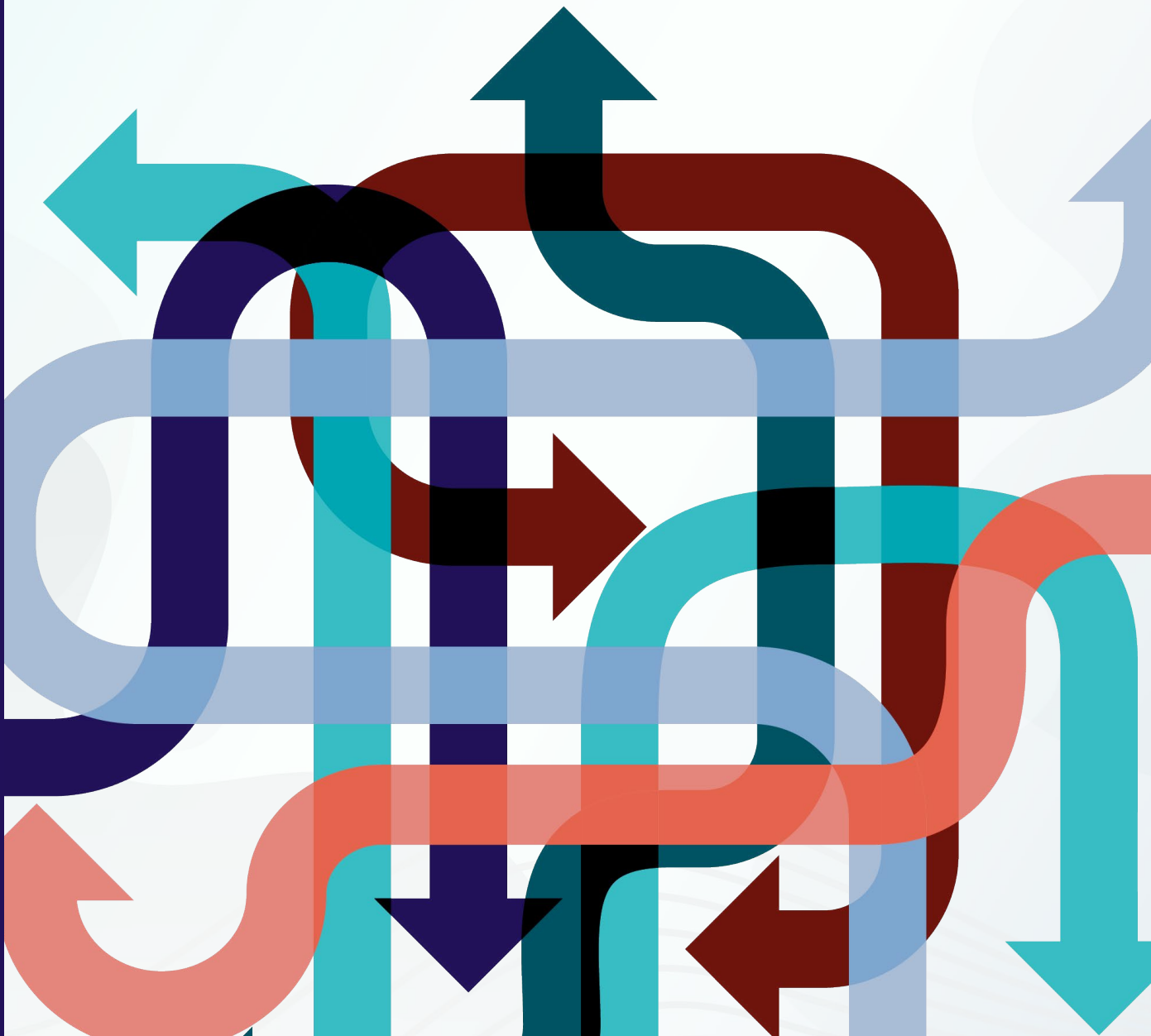


How Clear Is Their Path?

Guided Career Pathways and Community College Students

Student Discussion Guide



INTRODUCTION

What follows is a discussion guide that can be used to facilitate conversations with students about their experiences with guided career pathways.

To access the full CCCSE Focus Group Toolkit, visit <https://cccse.org/resources/focus-groups>. Featured on this page is the Focus Group Manual, which provides comprehensive guidance around planning and conducting focus groups with students, faculty, and staff. This manual contains several appendix resources, such as templates for invitation emails and consent forms as well as sample intake survey questions and basic focus group opening questions. In addition, the Toolkit includes a variety of discussion guides (including this one) devoted to a diverse array of topics important to community college student engagement and success.

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. For those who recently graduated from high school, did someone at your high school talk to you about careers? Were you encouraged to consider a career choice? Did someone talk to you about colleges and programs to consider? What were those conversations like?
2. When you first started at this college, did someone (advisor or individual you initially met with) at this college ask you about your college goals—such as a certificate, degree, transfer, job, etc.? Describe the conversation.
 - a. Did someone at this college discuss with you about how long it would take for you to reach your goals and how much it might cost? What did they say?
 - b. Is this about the amount of time you were thinking it would take to reach your goals or did you think it might take a shorter or longer amount of time? Why?
 - c. Is this about the cost you were anticipating?
 - d. Did a staff member at this college discuss job or career opportunities with you based on your career interests? Did anyone at this college tell you about career services available to you (e.g., a career center on campus, technology that can help you choose a career or explore jobs, etc.)? Describe the conversation.
 - e. What types of activities have you participated in at this college to explore your chosen career?
 - i. Visited an employer or work site
 - ii. Job shadowing
 - iii. Used an online career exploration tool

- iv. Anything else?
 - v. Please provide examples of activities that you engaged in.
- 3. Did the college assist you through a process for choosing a general area of study [metamajor, academic and career community, etc.—use *the term specific to your college*] or even a particular program (or major)? What was involved in that process?
 - a. What types of activities have you participated in at this college to identify a general area of study [metamajor, academic and career community, etc.—use *the term specific to your college*] or a specific program (or major)?
 - i. Explored the college website
 - ii. Talked with an advisor/counselor
 - iii. Attended an orientation session that provided information about programs of study
 - iv. Participated in a course where choices about careers and programs of study were discussed
 - v. Anything else?
- 4. Think about the classes you have taken in the past and those you are enrolled in now. In any of your classes, has your instructor talked with you about ...
 - a. Completing an associate degree?
 - b. Transferring to a four-year college/university after you complete your studies at this college?
 - c. Services available at the college to help you with your studies?
 - d. Things you can do to succeed in your classes?
 - e. Your career plans?
 - f. Regional employment opportunities based on your career interests?