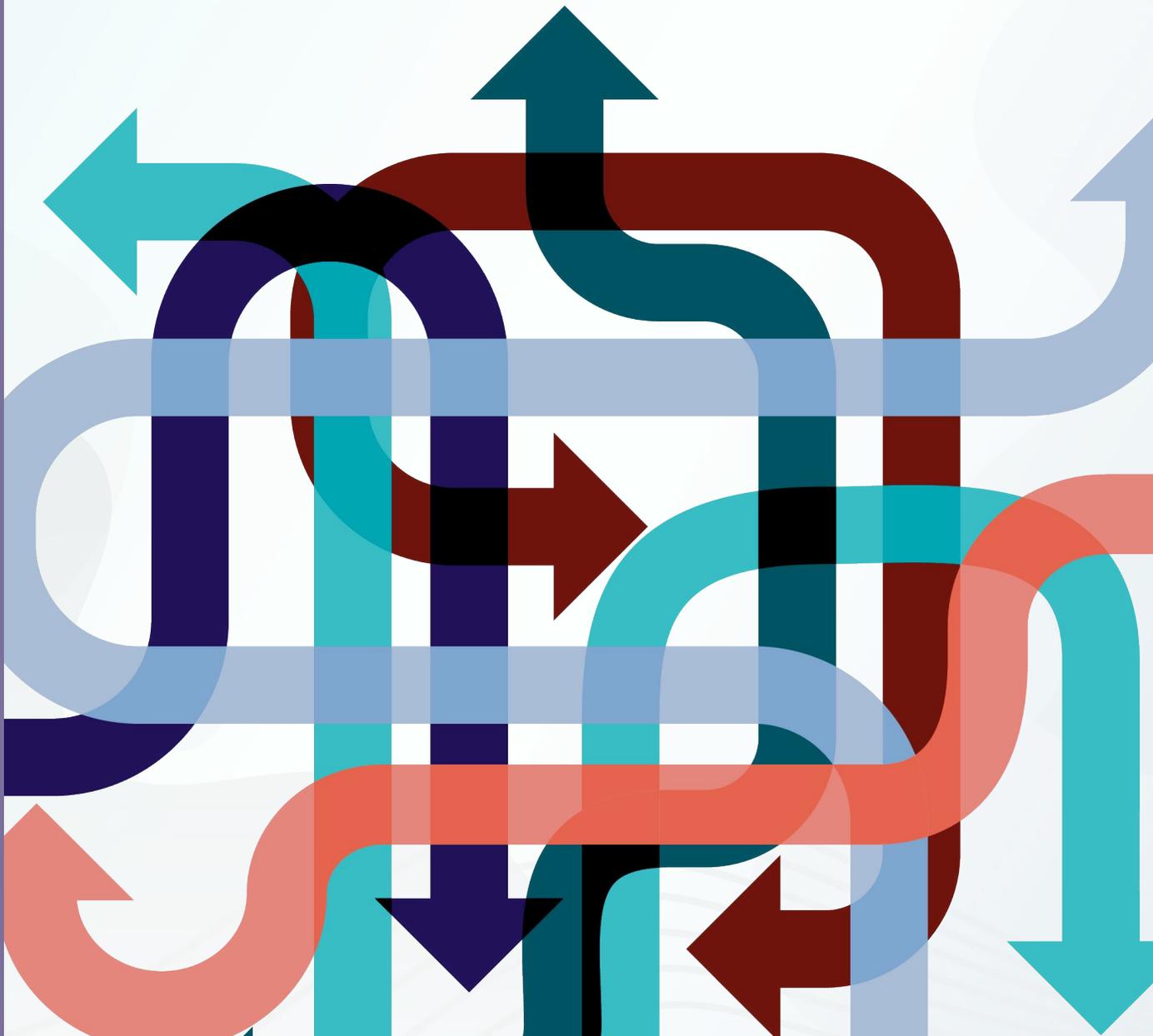


How Clear Is Their Path?

Guided Career Pathways and Community College Students

Questions for Consideration





QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

The work of guided career pathways takes time and coordinated effort among presidents, senior leaders, staff, faculty, and trustees. Colleges interested in furthering their efforts in this area can have campus conversations to shed light on needs, expand understanding, and inspire people to act and continue this challenging work. The following questions can be used to spur such conversations.

For Presidents and Senior Leaders

- » How does your college define and prioritize career exploration and guidance?
- » If your college is in the process of implementing guided pathways, how can you capitalize on the experience of students who are already working in the same field as their program area?
- » How do you collaborate with local industries and employers to ensure that your career pathways align with workforce needs?
- » How do you assess the effectiveness of your career pathways in terms of student outcomes, such as completion rates and employability?
- » What plans do you have for future enhancements or expansions of your career pathways model?
- » How do you involve faculty and staff in the development and implementation of career pathways?
- » How do you incorporate industry-recognized credentials or certifications into your career pathways to increase students' employability?
- » How do you address the evolving needs of the job market and adapt your career pathways accordingly?
- » What steps are being taken to ensure that career guidance and preparation are integrated seamlessly into the student experience, from enrollment through graduation and beyond?

For Advisors, Counselors, and Other Staff

- » How do students at your college develop a plan and pathway for achieving their goals?
- » What kinds of career exploration does your college offer students?
- » Do all students at your college participate in career exploration, even those already working in the field of their program area?
- » How do those who lead career exploration at your college talk to students about their current jobs and the soft skills and transferable skills they are gaining through them?

- » Is your college advising students with equity in mind? Is the college giving all students information about programs of study that can increase their economic mobility?
- » If students are not using career advising and planning services, how can your college encourage them to utilize these services early in their college careers?
- » How do students at your college become aware of the types of jobs and corresponding salaries to which their program areas will lead?
- » What career planning services does your college offer that connect students with jobs within their program areas, both while they are in college and after they graduate?
- » How does your college connect students with local employers for internships and other applied learning experiences?

For Faculty

- » How do you see your role as a faculty member in supporting students' exploration and pursuit of career pathways?
- » Do you invite career services personnel into your classes to discuss how career services at the college can benefit students?
- » Do you require a career-focused activity in your courses to encourage use of career advising and planning?
- » How do you integrate career preparation and experiential learning opportunities into academic coursework?
- » How do you collaborate with other faculty members or departments to ensure that students receive comprehensive career guidance and support across their academic journey?
- » In what ways do you stay informed about current trends and developments in the industries relevant to your field, and how does this inform your approach to discussing potential careers with students?

For Trustees

- » How do you see the role of the board of trustees in fostering partnerships with local industries and employers to enhance career opportunities for students?
- » What measures are being taken at the governance level to ensure that career pathways remain a priority and receive adequate support and resources?
- » What strategies are in place to communicate the value and importance of career pathways to the broader community and stakeholders, including potential donors and partners?
- » What steps is the board taking to advocate for policies that support the implementation and sustainability of career pathways in community colleges?



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