

Guided Pathways: Preliminary Report on Implementation and Student Outcomes

In 2021, the legislature directed WSIPP to evaluate the Guided Pathways model. In this report, we reviewed the implementation of Guided Pathways in Washington and examined early student outcomes. A final report is due by December 15, 2029.

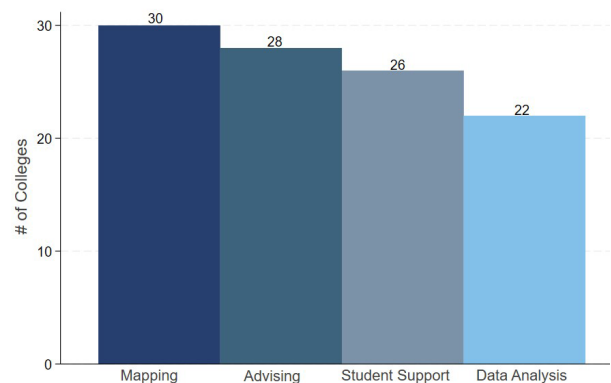
Background

Guided Pathways is a community college reform framework that aims to help students choose academic paths and earn credentials or transfer on time. Between academic years (AY) 2015 and 2019, 12 colleges in Washington implemented Guided Pathways. In 2019, the legislature provided funding for all 34 community and technical colleges to implement the program. We surveyed colleges and received data from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to examine implementation and student outcomes.

Implementation Findings

- Thirty-three colleges responded to our survey and are all implementing Guided Pathways to some extent. Eighteen colleges are implementing initiatives in all four legislative requirement areas related to program mapping, advising, data analysis, and student support services.
- Guided Pathways varies by college, but we found common activities across colleges.
- Colleges reported increased collaboration and improved campus culture as success areas, the COVID-19 pandemic, staff capacity, and buy-in as challenges, and reported the need for ongoing funding. However, we may not have exhaustively captured colleges' Guided Pathways efforts in our survey.

of Colleges Implementing Guided Pathways (By Legislative Requirement Area)



Student Outcome Findings

- We examined retention, course completion, credit accumulation, and GPA outcomes for students in Guided Pathways and non-Guided Pathways colleges between AY 2012 and 2019.
- Outcomes increased for students in both college groups over time, and any differences were small.
- The slight differences we observed between college groups may be due to Guided Pathways or other programs, college factors, or student characteristics.

Assignment Details

Assigned in 2021 Legislative Session
E2SSB 5194, Sponsor: Sen. Liias

[Preliminary report available on WSIPP's website](#)

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