



This case study is part of an eight-part series under APLU's Guided Pathways for 4-Year Institutions model.

To view the model and other case studies, visit www.aplu.org/guidedpathways

4-Year Guided Pathways Case Study: Pathways USA (Vertical Transfers)

Introduction

Pathway USA is a collaborative program between the University of South Alabama and select local two-year colleges. The program supports a smooth transition for students transferring to South who have earned an Associate in Arts or Associate in Science degree from one of the partner 2-year participating schools. Pathway USA students will work with a University of South Alabama Transfer Advisor who, along with their college counselor, will help them develop a sound academic plan, find resources to support academic success and become familiar with South's campus and resources, all while still working towards their associates degree.

Description of Strategy

Students entering or currently enrolled at Bishop State Community College, Coastal Alabama Community College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College or Pensacola State College can get more information about Pathway USA and sign up for the program by contacting their college counselor or their school's Admissions Office. They must indicate their interest by signing up for the program. Students in the program must meet with the USA transfer advisor at least two times each semester. A minimum cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 is required for unconditional admission (GPA used is that which is computed by USA Admissions). Students must be eligible to re-enroll at the last institution attended. Applicants who have earned college credits, but fewer than 30 semester hours, must also satisfy freshman admission requirements.

Intervention

The USA Transfer Evaluation System (TES) is an interactive tool that helps transfer students assess which credits earned at their current or former school may transfer to USA. It is important to keep in mind that the TES is an unofficial course evaluation. USA will make an official determination of transfer credit acceptance after a student is admitted to the university and official transcripts for all of their previously completed coursework have been received.

Transfer Students 2017-2018 (Undergraduate)- Among 10,988 enrolled in undergraduate programs, 779 are transfer-in students. The percentage of transfer-in students is 7.09%. Approximately 660 students have transferred in as full-time status and 119 students transferred in as part-time status.

Relation to the Model

The Pathway USA program covers two areas of the Guided Pathways Model through early progress and advanced progress. In relation to early progress, Pathway USA implements proactive advising while through advanced progress, the program implements degree mapping, 2-year partnerships and receiving and articulating transfer credits.