Pathways - Convocation 2017

Summary of Question 3 Responses

3. When building academic flow charts, should the College emphasize certificates and encourage students to pursue a degree, or should the College emphasize degrees and notify students when they have completed a certificate or certification? Why or why not? Should general education courses be taken alongside program courses for CTE programs? Why or why not?

Show both options and your future options – jobs, industry projections

How does 2 years here help advance?

Make sure certificates lead to employment; not ending; call them milesones.

Yes, take Gen Eds with program classes and make relevant when possible.

We have one vote for emphasizing certificates on the charts. Many think this is a false dichotomy. Some think charts should be responsive to what students in a given area seem to prefer.

Yes, Gen Ed and CTE should be taught concurrently.

However, sometimes it is not appropriate to require Gen Ed for some certificates.

HLC assumed practices require an amount of Gen Ed course-work for all degrees and certificates.

If stackable certificates, emphasize certificates.

If AAS program with a certificate along the way, emphasize degree. A different approach for different programs.

Definitely need to emphasize certificates as “milestone” and as a path to jobs – small successes.

Degree oriented students are different from day one. They will focus on the degree route.

Provide student with a visual of both. By showing both it will give students more ability to choose and plan. But the connections between the two needs to be very clear.

Not every student fits in a big picture or a stackable certificate program. We need to be sure the path speaks to each student, wherever they are.

When listing certificate program options, it should be clear what courses transfer (a symbol like the sun symbol.

Suggestion for presenting how certificates can build to a degree. Give a visual.

Gen Ed

Level 3

Level 2

Level 1

 vs.

One overwhelming block

Depends – yes be transparent with options but support students that need to take smaller steps (certificates that lead into AAS degrees help!)

Encourage developing a career exploration course.

Encourage students into courses in their field of study (along with Gen Eds) so students get connected to the community of their discipline.

For CTE programs, perhaps consider linking writing, math, etc. Appropriate courses for the skill development necessary for vocation.

Respect students’ needs/goals for employment.

Certificates give them an employable way into the real world. It also motivates them and gives them an end goal.

We need to cut back on the amount of certificates we have at the college (there are 100+)

As long as certificates are “employability” based. Need to have pathways for certificate.

Depends on the field of degree.

CTEC it would be great!

Nursing – depends on what the student wants to do (ex. Nurse/phlebotomist/NA/MA)

Business – depends on type of certificate/degree

Why not both? For programs with scaffolded certificates that lead to an AAS – many students are interested in a certificate because it will lead to a job. They may then come back later and complete another certificate or work toward a degree.

For programs with a stand-alone AAS, there should be a flow chart that has Gen Ed alongside the program courses. It will be important for students to see the relevance for the Gen Ed classes. Therefore, we may need to either design Gen Ed classes for different disciplines or use block classes that can be geared toward the material being covered in program courses.

Certificates first. Then get job and continue with Gen Ed working toward a degree.

Certificates need to be tied to gainful employment. Not a “badge” or pat on the back to receive a degree.

Reiterate – The level of prescriptiveness/development of pathways should be determined by the faculty within the program.

Is student motivation the issue?

Certificate as a “consolation prize” if students fall short of degree?

Yes, both certificate and degree can be presented to student – the question is presenting a false dilemma.

Emphasis should be on degree – speaks to the students who can be flexible, intricately think, multi-task. Gen Ed requirements mandatory! “Be all you can be.”

Yes, advise and show at same time along with salary job prospects – actual YC students in our area.

Certificate search does not show connection to degree.

Students may think certificate is a degree.

Yes, recommend Gen Ed taken along with CTE program but not first (depends on scheduling)

Better for students to incorporate Gen Ed experiences in some tasks.

Some are fine with taking CTE cert courses and Gen Ed later.

Are we looking at college-wide prescriptive pathways using very traditional paths like nursing, business – and doing away with non-traditional programs? Or trying to make non-traditional programs fit into bubbles.

A cert is a completion and maybe we lose some that don’t continue.

Yes, in favor of cert first – jobs/employable; some confidence; some employers help pay the AA/AAS after certificate

A degree may be discouraging time/cost and they may quit before completing anything.

Certs often appeal to new or re-entry students who aren’t confident in study skills yet.

“Building academic flow charts” does not effectively work for all pathways – can we agree that not every degree fits this model and may literally deter students (bubbles are misleading for many non-traditional paths – where pre-reqs don’t really apply until junior year)

Why are we spending so much time on so much of details we cannot control? Is enrollment actually increasing? Dr. Johnstone noted decreased enrollment yet completion?

Depends on your students. Age, VA benefits, prior life work. What is student’s idea of success?

Depends on major course load. Maybe? Most take online, summer classes. They would probably take Gen Ed classes at CTEC if scheduled twice daily. With common Gen Eds among the programs, they should make.

If the certificate is emphasized why have an AAS at all?

We have no CTE faculty in our group so not enough knowledge to weigh in on this situation in its entirety.

If we offer both an AAS and certificate the AAS should be emphasized if it is validated as being beneficial over the certificate. There needs to be some serious statistical analysis completed for validating certificates versus AAS.