

The Pathway Program at OSU: A Structured Year One Experience

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Presentation Overview

What is the INTO OSU Pathway Program?

How does the Pathway Program differ from other first-year experiences?

What was the planning process?

How was the Pathway Program implemented?

What were the results of the Pathway Program's first year?

The Pathway Program

First-year (freshman) series of courses for international students who may or may not be *directly* admissible to OSU

Four Pathways: Engineering, Science, Business, General

Pathway Program admission requirements: high school diploma with 2.5+ GPA, TOEFL 53+ (475+) or IELTS 5.0

Pathway Program combines OSU academic coursework and English language study

Successful completion of Pathway Program leads to sophomore standing at OSU

Planning



Bridge Pilot Program (Fall 2007)

- **Target population:** completed IEP but TOEFL scores well below admission requirement; high school GPA over 3.0+
- **Components:**
 - 2 baccalaureate core classes
 - 2 bridge courses
 - 1 math course based on placement test
- **Full admission:** if GPA 2.5 or higher
- **Results:** Fall 2007 average GPA 3.41
Winter 2008 average GPA 3.23 as full-time OSU students

Curriculum Design: Stakeholders

- Vice Provost
- VP for Finance
- International Programs Director
- INTO program developers
- Deans or associate deans
- Head advisors
- ELI curriculum developers

Curriculum Design: Key Questions

- How many “pathways”?
- Which courses would take priority?
- What would be the mix of classes: pathways students only, mainstream with/without bridge
- Possibility of graduation in four years
- Admission and progression requirements

Curriculum Design: Components

- English for Academic Purposes
- Math
- Baccalaureate Core requirements
- Major specific first year requirements
- Bridging and support

Curriculum Design: Challenges

- Credit for EAP and bridge classes
- Saving spaces in courses not taught in the pathways and paying for them
- How to fit in everything: language classes; baccalaureate core requirements; courses in various majors; bridge/support hours
- Which courses to bridge/support
- How to get 45 hours in each pathway
- How to get a manageable courseload
- Which chemistry courses to offer in science and engineering pathways

Business Pathways Curriculum

Term 1: Reading & Writing*; Listening & Speaking*; Math; Lifetime Fitness for Health + Bridge**; Physical Activity

Term 2: Reading & Writing*; Public Speaking; Math; Cultural Diversity + Bridge**

Term 3: Writing 121; Math, Business Now + Bridge**

*English language course; **language support course

Relationship to IEP

IEP Program

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

Level 5

Level 6

What Students Do Pre-Pathway

Students placed in Levels 1-4 based on battery of English language tests

Students who pass all Level 4 classes can enter Pathway Program the next term with no TOEFL/IELTS required

Implementation



Skills Assessment on Arrival

Math Placement Test

- The standard OSU test
- Students placed according to normal guidelines

Language Skills Assessment

- Writing assessment
- Accuplacer listening and reading tests

Assessment is done for information purposes only

Language Assessment Codes

Red – Scores very low, student strongly advised to delay PW entry

Yellow – Some scores in the low range, students required to meet with the Academic Success Coordinator

Green – Scores in the normal range

Orientation

Fall 2010: two-day mini-conference

Each day included time with all students together and a series of 5 break-out sessions

Whole group sessions were at the beginning and end of each day and included welcome, introduction to teachers, peer tutors, scholar mentor program, debriefing, and a written evaluation of the orientation

Orientation Break-Out Sessions

The Online Classroom: Blackboard, Online Services, What is a GPA?, Calculating Your GPA

The Pathway Program: What is It?, Academic Expectations, The OSU Baccalaureate Core

The Syllabus: How to Read It & What It Means, Academic Honesty, Pathway Program Classroom Expectations

Orientation Break-Out Sessions

Housing & Dorm Life: Roommates--How to Live with Them & How to Deal with Them

Help! Academic Services: Academic Advising & Counseling, Tutoring

Registration

Pathways students are enrolled in language, bridge, and OSU classes

Seats in OSU classes are guaranteed:

- INTO purchases/reserves blocks of seats for PW students in OSU classes
- OSU instructors teach PW only classes
- PW students are mainstreamed into OSU classes & OSU is reimbursed

Registration

Fall term Pathways students receive help with registration

- Program of study + one-on-one registration assistance

- Block registration by Registrar's office + one-on-one assistance for registration changes

Winter, Spring, Summer terms students receive a course of study and register on their own (with help as needed)

Registration Challenges

- Registration requires a great deal of up-front planning with various departments across campus
- Some departments are more flexible than others
- Creating class schedules demands time and juggling – must work 1 or more terms ahead
- Creating course of study documents for each student is time-consuming and tedious
- Block registration vs individual registration

University Partners - Math

- One math class each term
- INTO-only groups
- Taught by regular Math Dept instructors
- Instructors concurrently teach INTO and regular OSU classes at the same level
- INTO sections smaller than regular sections

University Partners – HHS & Speech

Health and Human Science

- One lecture class
- One Physical Activity class
- Taught by regular faculty
- Mainstreamed with OSU students

Speech Communications

- One lecture and recitation class
- Taught by OSU faculty
- INTO only sections

University Partners – Engineering & Anthropology

Engineering

- Two lecture/lab classes
- Taught by regular faculty
- Mainstreamed with OSU students

Anthropology

- One lecture class
- Taught by Anthropology Dept faculty
- Sections 2/3 INTO, 1/3 regular students

University Partners - Writing

Written Communication

- OSU first year writing class
- Taught by OSU and INTO faculty under the supervision of the OSU Writing Program
- INTO only sections which include 1 extra hour/week

University Partners – Business & Science

Business

- Business intro class for business majors
- Taught by business faculty
- Students mainstreamed with regular students

Science

- 2-3 terms chemistry, one term physics
- Taught by OSU faculty
- Chemistry: INTO only lectures, mixed labs
- Physics: mainstreamed

Administration



Pathways Coordinators

50% coordination and planning

- Estimate sections needed
- Coordinate schedules of courses delivered by partners
- Fill in schedule with INTO OSU delivered EAP and Bridge courses
- Staff language and bridge classes

Pathway Coordinators

50% student advising

- Students don't always stay on the path
 - some start over
 - some re-take classes
 - some change majors
- Support Services: Academic Counseling & Tutoring

First Year Results



Progression to OSU

Pathway Program Completion

2.25 GPA

45 credit hours (pass all classes)

C or higher in math, WR 121, COMM 111

C- or higher in all other classes

(Engineering students C or higher in
engineering, math, and chemistry)

Progression to OSU

Meet Requirements for Transfer to OSU

2.25 GPA

Grade of C- or higher in math, WR 121

Completion of 36 credit hours

Students who transfer to OSU are not guaranteed a place in their major program of study

1st Year Results

124 pathways students

- 43 completed their pathways
- 37 completed transfer requirements
- 5 changed to direct admit

85 total matriculated to date

1st Year Results

Other Transfers

- To other universities: 2
- To intensive English: 5

Ineligible to continue

- Academic/other suspension 14

Eligible to continue

- Still in pathways: 16
- Did not return: 2

Year 2 New Enrollment

Fall 145

Winter 75 (estimated)

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