

## Preliminary Findings: Career Interviews: October & November 2017

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### Pathways Student Perceptions and Experiences of PCC Pathways

Topic	Comment
Priority Registration	Priority registration is integral to students joining and continuing with Pathways, in particular because of access to key courses and better professors to eventually transfer.
Inconsistencies in understanding of program structure and purpose	Utilization of counselors opposed to coaches; What is Pathways and what is PCC?
Experiences with coaches	Positive experiences with coaches; Limited knowledge of career-specific information; some continue with same coach, others don't.
Program requirements and opportunities for additional experiences	Dissatisfaction with certain requirements; lack of availability of opportunities (e.g. internships)
Major and career goal misalignment; unsure of path toward goals	Students experience confusion with pathways that link major objectives and career goals.

### The International Student Experience

Topic	Comment
Employment Opportunities while in school	Many students reported difficulty acquiring employment opportunities. If students did work, they tended to be employed as tutors.
Concerns about future employment	When asked about career choices, students referenced needing employment sponsors and higher incomes to remain eligible as authorized immigrants.
Family influence in decision-making (both majors and careers)	International students report communicating consistently with their family about major and career choices. Family also heavily influences their major and career choices
Positive social and academic moments/moments	Students find schooling relatively easy compared to their home country; students develop positive friendships
English Language Development	Students discuss language as a barrier

### Students' Labor Histories

Topic	Comment
Current Employment	Experiences of students currently working: some misalignment with future career goals; some beneficial experiences; can be hectic juggling work and school
Family Employment	How family employment influences their goals; opportunities provided by family

### Networks: Who Informs Their Decision-Making

Topic	Comment
Career Aspirations	Family plays an important role in influencing the career aspirations of students. Influential high school teachers and counselors and college professors and staff were also mentioned as being influential. Peers also seem to play a positive role in encouraging/inspiring students to transfer and achieve career aspirations.
Major	Family seems to play more of a role in supporting their student's college pursuits and career aspirations rather than influencing what specific major their student pursued

### Overall Assets and Needs

Assets:	Some students are very knowledgeable of resources and take advantage of them via Pathways and PCC. However, others seem to be very unaware of possible resources and where to access them.
Needs:	Many students haven't tapped into networks/resources they know would be helpful. Students seem to perceive Pathways as primarily serving transfer and academic goals rather than career goals.