

Guided Pathways Focused Flex

8/23/18

8:30 am – 3:15 pm

Break-Out Group Sessions: Meta Majors

Participant feedback on how community colleges present their Meta Majors

What We Noticed:

- Difficult to conceptualize how this is different from current model
- MESA kind of already functions as meta-major (so we have a model of sorts)
- Lots of divergence in how majors are sorted. Placements of majors aren't always intuitive
- Look like schools at large institutions
- GE vs. CTE pathways, Certificates v. Degrees
- Simple: College E, Detailed: College F (CTE focus)
- Blended concepts
- Pseudo adjacent boxes: overlap – how easy is it to go from this box to the next
- Simplifying core comp
- What does an in-demand employee look like and develop to that
- Some divisions seem artificial – dangers in divisions
- Danger in having meta-majors so defined
- Take a career exploration course/assessment w/n 1st of 2nd semester
- Make it workable and flexible for major changers
- Undeclared/exploratory “major”
- College B – Rural College, College C – More Technical
 - You can tell what they're focus is

What We Liked:

- If students change their minds, they don't start over at square one
- Students build community early in process
- Makes it easier/more efficient to do focused/directed counseling
- This seems to be more student-facing
- Could this open the door to interdisciplinary collaboration?
- We like basic (College E)
- We like options (College F)
- Like the career path
- We like to blend concepts
- Like when called "schools"
- Subheadings
- Preference for smaller options at beginning and for sub-categories: options C&E
- Requirement career exploration course for each student
 - Online or in person or hybrid
 - Cover retention skills
 - Cover online/hybrid success skills
 - "Career Exploration - am I in the right major OR finding a major"
- College C meta-majors
- College E Schools
- Prefer Career/Academic Paths rather than Meta Majors
- Colleges A & C – NOT B
- Subgroups of A & C
- College F – More concrete path to career – Like that they're called Career Paths, Career Path is a major

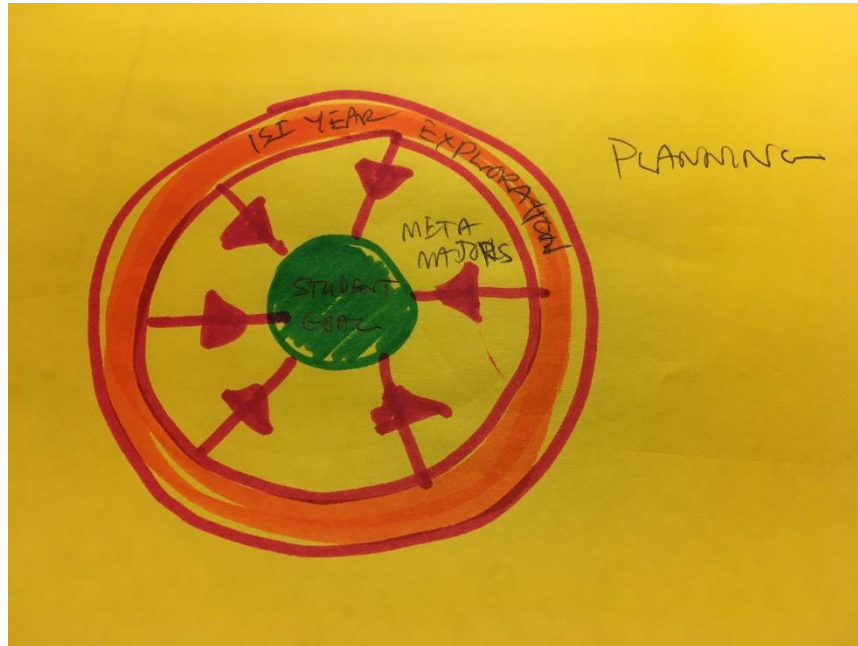
Our Concerns:

- How much do we tell students? (terminology)
- How do we avoid confusion?
- Worried about excess credits
- Students being stuck in a “path”
- How do we frame this so students understand?
- What if we just want our students to come out being good people?
- How long do they have to identify a major?
- We are trying to be everything to everybody (not directive, we let students choose)
- Forcing students into a pathway too early
- Creating more exit points for pathways?
- Concerns – changing major
- Is the curriculum aligned (change w/n box) or just names?
- How will we support students in selecting an academic/Career Path? – Perhaps with a counselor
- Need a plan for the undecided: First Year? Choose 2 Meta-majors?
- Need data on all major changes all students have swirled and cluster results. Use this to help us create meta-majors
- Constant reflection on where you are in your commitment/interest in your meta-major & major?
- Why do students have to pick a path right off the bat?
- Need clarity – a clean program system to navigate options for students
- Intake – When apply, choosing courses
- Support – how college students view college experience they feel weakness/dumb etc. Anticipate support
- Learning (advising) – what are employees looking for
- Meta Careers vs. Meta Majors
- Navigate by student not force student to choose based on what is being forced
- Career planning important
 - Assessments, personality, skills, experience
- Do I start with a career goal and choose a major thereby, or do I choose an interest and the career goal from there?
- 2 Charts:
 - Career Goal –leads to Major
 - Interest – leads to Career

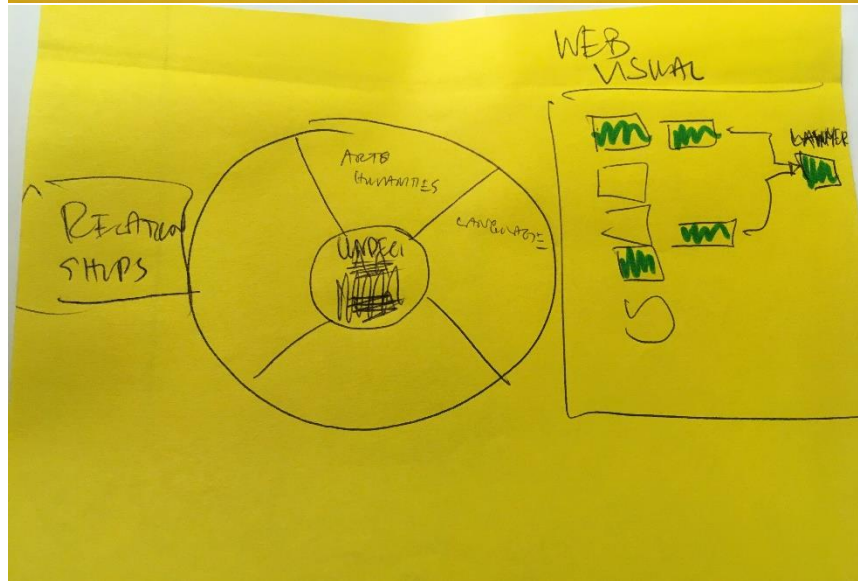
Observations/Questions/Suggestions:

- New Model
- Vision for Success Goals in CCC
- How to make part-timers get to completion
- What does this major look like?
 - Job shadowing
 - Guest speakers
 - Videos
- Perhaps students are undecided not because they lack knowledge of themselves, not “I’m undecided”, but rather because they lack knowledge of their options. “It’s not I’m undecided, I know myself. I don’t know my options”
- What if all students had a job on campus or with an LMC-friendly company, if they really need one? – CHARGE FOR BOB.
 - We need meetings where we create suggestions for Bob to pursue, for our Board of Trustees to pursue.
- We think meta-majors is not a student friendly term.
 - Preferred Terms:
 - Career Paths, Area of Study, Pre-Major
- Some areas are self-evident: College D – Culinary Arts w/ Law/Justice – awkward miscellaneous quality to some of these categories
- We need to decide – what are we trying to accomplish before start grouping? What changes, if any, do we want to make?
- How do AA-T/AS-T degrees and requirement fit into the meta-majors? Like in multiple categories (majors)
- Career First then back up
 - What do you want to be?
 - Then back to major
 - Then to meta-major

Ideas on Meta Majors Planning Outlines:



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