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LEARNING LOG
Redesigning a Catalog for Pathways

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DETERMINE...

DETAILS

MAKING IT WORK, UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS, AND SHARING WHAT WORKS

TITLE
Redesigning a Catalog for Pathways

SOLUTION ⓘ
Redesigned Planning Advising and Student Services

CAPACITIES ⓘ
Information Technology

Owner
👤 Kelly Mizell (/education/s/profile/0053600000472B6AAI)   👥

Record Type
Monthly-Current 2017   ⧉

INSTITUTION
San Jacinto College

REFLECTION

SITE INITIATIVE ⓘ
As part of our Pathways work, San Jacinto College has started a redesign of the catalog to make it easier for students to find the information they need to keep them on their pathway to completion. Currently, the catalog is a printed document that has a section on policies and processes followed by a section with information on degrees, certificates, and courses. This layout makes it hard for students to access the information that they need. Therefore, students rarely use the catalog, but tend to look for information on the website. This redesign will give students the information on website pages arranged around Career Pathways that contain information on degrees, certificates, and course transfer adjacent to career and salary information with links to process and policies information.

PROGRESS TOWARD STUDENT SUCCESS ⓘ

We began the catalog redesign by forming a task force consisting of individuals from student services, tech services, marketing and Pathways leadership. The task force decided that the two policy and instructional information sections should be separated to make it easier for students to find the newly added information on Career Pathways. We have grouped all of the certificates and degrees into 8 Career Pathways. Within each Career Pathway, MAPs (My Academic Plan) have been developed by faculty that give students a semester sequence of courses that will lead them to their next educational or career goals. When placed on the website, these MAPs will be have links to policy information that students may need, such as financial aid, advising, and student support information.

IMPACT ⓘ
We believe that this redesign will make it easier for students to access the information that will help them find the information, resources, and support they need to stay on their MAP. We could measure this by tracking student access to the new catalog and how often they use the links on the MAP pages. This change will make the MAPs and information about student support and easier for students to find and use. We believe this will help them stay on their pathway to university transfer or to a career.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL RESOURCES ⓘ
Internal Resources: personnel and technology

NEXT CRITICAL STEPS ⓘ

The task force will continue the work by:
- Coding the MAPs in Pub Builder
- Writing or hiring someone to write the text for each page.
- Collecting the job availability, salary, and cost of education information for each MAP.

OPPORTUNITIES/CHALLENGES ⓘ

Lessons learned to date include:
- The text in the Catalog was more institution-serving to meet legal requirements, but students found it hard to understand.
- The text on the website was easier for students to understand but was not as extensive as the catalog.
- Even though we agreed to move the catalog online, student services needs to be able to print a copy for permanent records at certain points during the year. This requirement means that the online catalog cannot be continuously updated and that a permanent record should be printed prior to scheduled updates.

Our greatest challenge is doing this work while preparing for a SACSCOC self-study and reaccreditation during the 2017-2018 academic year. We plan to enter all of the academic transfer MAPs and work on the redesign until we freeze the website in September 2017 for our SACSCOC accreditation. However, redesign work will continue on an offline website until the reaccreditation process has concluded in February 2019. The redesigned website will be launched at that time.

QUESTIONS/REQUESTS ⓘ

What successes and challenges have other institutions had with designing their catalog to support Pathways?

STATUS

Final

Completion Date ⓘ

5/18/2017

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(/education/s/profile/00536000003BifDAAS) **Jon Young (/education/s/profile/00536000003BifDAAS)** (Fayetteville State University)
May 22, 2017 at 6:03 AM (/education/s/feed/0D53600001Jqf4QCAR)

At Fayetteville State University, we are implementing Acalog, a tool that will make our online catalog much more dynamic and user friendly. In conjunction with this effort, we are implementing Degree Works to help clarify our degree pathways. These efforts represent a huge investment of time and funding. Based on feedback from other campuses we are reasonably confident that they will make a positive difference.

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(/education/s/profile/005360000047OxIAAU)   Brendan Ward (/education/s/profile/005360000047OxIAAU) (Context Partners)   ▼

Thank you very much for the comment, @Jon Young (/education/s/profile/00536000003BifDAAS) (Fayetteville State University) and your reflection, @Kelly Mizell (/education/s/profile/0053600000472B6AAI) (San Jacinto College).
Like   June 7, 2017 at 4:20 PM

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