



Your College  **Right Now**

Student Progression Tracking to Support Student Pathways and Increase Completion

Patrick Sanger
Alvin Community College
psanger@alvincollege.edu



Who is Alvin Community College?

Alvin Community College is a medium sized HSI college just south of Houston

We have a Fall unduplicated enrollment of around 5,600

78% of our students are part-time

Student Information System: Ellucian Colleague

Data Warehouse: Zogotech

Analysis and Dashboarding: Tableau

Our IER office consists of 5 full-time staff – 2 data focused, 2 assessment based, and a Dean



Outcomes of This Session

1. Understand the challenges associated with tracking student progression in higher education and recognize the limitations of existing systems and staffing.
2. Explore the benefits of using data to support student pathways and increase program completion rates.
3. Gain insights into strategies like identifying alternate degree options and off-path courses .



Topics to be Covered

Brief overview of Guided Pathways

History of tracking student progression at Alvin Community College

Strategies that might be quick to implement:

- Possible Completers

- Near Completers

- Off-Path



Guided Pathways – National and Texas

It is a student success framework to support colleges as they clarify paths for student end goals, help students choose and enter a pathway, help students stay on their pathway, and ensure students are learning.

There are 4 pillars used in Texas:

1. Mapping Pathways to Student End Goals
2. Helping Students Choose and Enter a Pathway
3. Keeping Students on Path
4. Ensuring Students are Learning



Guided Pathways – Keeping Student on Path

Pillar 3 of the Texas Pathways is about keeping students on their path.

How can we help to keep students on their path?

What can we do to make their path easier to follow?



Tracking Student Progression at ACC - Historical

Tracking students can be difficult given your resources, tools, and software.

Once we added a data warehouse, we started having a faster mechanism to track student progression. Before that, it was a manual process and typically done program by program.

We've been working with Zogotech to speed up the process of tracking students.



Strategies

We're going to talk about three areas that might produce quick results and can be achievable with even limited resources.

Possible Completers

Near Completers

Off-Path



Possible Completers - Scheduling

Possible completers are students that are within a semester or two of completion. Essentially, within the school year.

Depending on your student makeup, if mostly PT, you will be looking for students with 12 or less credits to go – double that for FT.

What's critical about these students are you can plan ahead and schedule classes they need and help to focus them on staying on the path.



Possible Completers

Using our system, we can see that 713 of our 2024 Spring students are within 12 credits of finishing.

Report Filters: Academic Goal Exists is Yes, Degree Awarded is No, Requir

Requirements Remaining / Student Active Program	Unduplicated Headcount
+ 1	10
+ 2	28
+ 3	36
+ 4	54
+ 5	60
+ 6	66
+ 7	72
+ 8	87
+ 9	76
+ 10	69
+ 11	73
+ 12	82



Possible Completers

Of the ones that have 12 credits remaining, we can drill in to see their majors, then classes they need.

This can help with scheduling to clear any barriers in their progression.

AA Art	2
AA Criminal Justice	1
AA General Studies	45
AA Music-Instrumental	1
AA Psychology	1
AAS Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography-Adult Echo	1
AAS Diagnostic Cardiovascular Sonography-Vascular	2
AAT EC-Grade 6 & Other Certification Areas	1
AS Business Administration	5
AS Communications	3
AS Health Science	20
Total	82



Possible Completers – Completers that haven't been awarded

Another type of student is the one that may have completed but not been awarded for some reason.

Our system can run every student against every degree and then lists possible degrees that a student could be eligible for.

There are caveats on this and it requires human intervention, but we can typically find some that were overlooked, especially in certificates.



Possible Completers – Completed but not awarded?

Pathways - Completed but NOT Awarded - Any Program (MN1)

Report Filters Degree Awarded is No Requirements Remaining is 0 Student Last Term Academic Years Ago is in list (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Academic Goal	Unduplicated Headcount ↓
AA General Studies-Dual	50
AA General Studies	33
CE Certified Nurse Aid	8
CE Clinical Medical Assistant	5
Cert1 Welding (CERT1.WLDG.DUAL)	5
CE Plebotomy Technician	4
Cert1 Emergency Medical Services Advanced	4
CERT1 Process Technology (CERT2.PROT)	4
Cert1 Networking	3
CERT1 Pharmacy Technician (CERT1.PHARM)	3
Field of Study/Business	3
CERT1 Automotive Technology (CERT1.AUTO.DUAL)	2
Cert1 Emergency Medical Services Paramedic (CERT1.EMMT.DUAL)	2
CERT1 Pharmacy Technician (CERT1.PHARM.DUAL)	2



Near Completers

Near completers are students that are within a few credits of completion. They should finish this semester.

What's critical about these students is that you need to make sure they are staying on track. These students are the ones you want to watch carefully if you have early alerts or anything that can warn you of them slipping.



Near Completers

Our system has a “3 or less classes” category that allows us to look at the registered students and identify any that have 3 or less classes.

We are predominantly PT so students typically take 2-3 classes in a semester.

Pathways - 3 or Less Requirements Remaining in Current Program

Report Filters

Academic Goal Exists is Yes

Degree Awarded is No

Student Active Program	Unduplicated Headcount
AA Art	21
AA Criminal Justice	20
AA Drama	5
AA General Studies	1785
AA History	4
AA Music-Instrumental	4
AA Music-Voice	5
AA Psychology	34
AA Sociology	13
AA Sports & Human Performance	11
AAS Business Management	4
AAS Computer Networking Degree	1
AAS Criminal Justice	5
AAS Culinary Arts (AAS.CUL.ARTS)	2



Near Completers – Major Changes

Another area to watch for is students who may be able to graduate earlier under a different major.

In the next example, there is a Business Administration Major that is actually closer on their General Studies degree.



Possible Completers – Major Changes

Academic

Active Program	AS Business Administration
Declared Program	AS Business Administration
First Term Enrolled / Last Term Enrolled	2017SP / 2024SPM2
Admission Basis	Readmission - Prior Semester
GPA	2.492
Cumulative Completed Overall Credits	71

Showing academic progress for

11-20 of 371 < >

	Catalog	Academic Goal			Remain
+	2018	AA General Studies	--	--	0
+	2019	AA General Studies	--	--	0
+	2020	AA General Studies	--	--	0
+	2021	AA General Studies	--	--	0
+	2022	AA General Studies	--	--	0
+	2023	AA General Studies	--	--	0



Near Completers - Majors

	Catalog	Academic Goal			Remaining	Contributing
+	2016	AS Business Administration	Active Program	--	9	11
+	2017	AS Business Administration	Active Program	--	9	11
+	2018	AS Business Administration	Active Program	--	9	11
+	2019	AS Business Administration	Active Program	--	9	11
+	2020	AS Business Administration	Active Program	--	9	11
+	2021	AS Business Administration	Active Program	--	9	11
+	2022	AS Business Administration	Active Program	--	9	11
+	2016	AA General Studies	--	--	5 → 3	15 → 16
+	2017	AA General Studies	--	--	5 → 3	15 → 16
+	2018	AA General Studies	--	--	5 → 3	15 → 16



Near Completers - Majors

Or this Biological Sciences student who might want to switch?

	Catalog	Academic Goal		Remaining	Contributing	Registered	Completed (%)	On Path (%)	
+	2016	AS Biological Science	Active Program	--	6 → 5	13 → 14	1	68% → 73%	86% → 88%
+	2017	AS Biological Science	Active Program	--	6 → 5	12 → 13	1	66% → 72%	73%
+	2018	AS Biological Science	Active Program	--	6 → 5	12 → 13	1	66% → 72%	73%
+	2019	AS Biological Science	Active Program	--	6 → 5	12 → 13	1	66% → 72%	73%
+	2020	AS Biological Science	Active Program	--	7	11	1	61%	73%
+	2021	AS Biological Science	Active Program	--	7	11	1	61%	73%
+	2022	AS Biological Science	Active Program	--	7	11	0	61%	56% → 50%
+	2016	AA General Studies	--	--	2	18	1	90%	86% → 88%
+	2017	AA General Studies	--	--	2	18	1	90%	86% → 88%
+	2018	AA General Studies	--	--	2	18	1	90%	86% → 88%



Near Completers - Majors

Or this General Studies student who is closer to 2 other degrees.

	Catalog	Academic Goal		Remaining	Contributing	Registered	Completed (%)	On Path (%)	
+	2019	AA General Studies	Active Program	--	10 → 8	10 → 12	0	50% → 60%	100%
+	2020	AA General Studies	Active Program	--	10 → 8	10 → 12	0	50% → 60%	100%
+	2021	AA General Studies	Active Program	--	10 → 8	10 → 12	0	50% → 60%	100%
+	2022	AA General Studies	Active Program	--	10 → 8	10 → 12	0	50% → 60%	100%
+	2019	AAT Grades 7-12	--	--	6 → 5	10 → 11	0	62% → 68%	100%
+	2020	AAT Grades 7-12	--	--	6 → 5	10 → 11	0	62% → 68%	100%
+	2021	AAT Grades 7-12	--	--	6 → 5	10 → 11	0	62% → 68%	100%
+	2022	AAT Grades 7-12	--	--	6 → 5	10 → 11	0	62% → 68%	100%
+	2019	AS Biological Science	--	--	8 → 7	10 → 11	0	55% → 61%	100%
+	2020	AS Biological Science	--	--	8 → 7	10 → 11	0	55% → 61%	100%



Near Completers - Catalogs

Our system compares the students against their catalog and the last 8. In this case you can see the student's catalog of 2019 is better for them than the new one. We often find the reverse as well, that a newer catalog benefits the student more.

	Catalog	Academic Goal		Remaining	Contributing	Registered	Completed (%)	On Path (%)
+	2016	AA Art	Active Program	-- 11 → 4	9 → 16	2	45% → 80%	83% → 89%
+	2017	AA Art	Active Program	-- 11 → 4	9 → 16	2	45% → 80%	83% → 89%
+	2018	AA Art	Active Program	-- 11 → 4	9 → 16	2	45% → 80%	83% → 89%
+	2019	AA Art	Active Program	-- 11 → 4	9 → 16	2	45% → 80%	83% → 89%
+	2020	AA Art	Active Program	-- 12 → 5	8 → 15	2	40% → 75%	83% → 89%
+	2021	AA Art	Active Program	-- 12 → 5	8 → 15	2	40% → 75%	83% → 89%
+	2022	AA Art	Active Program	-- 12 → 5	8 → 15	2	40% → 75%	75% → 84%



Off Path

One of the biggest issues is students taking courses that are off path – or off degree.

Sometimes it is due to students making mistakes in their registration, especially with self registration, and taking courses that they do not need.

This can impact the time to completion, tuition costs of the student, or even their financial aid if they get too far off path.



Off Path

Our Spring 2024 enrollment has already identified some off-path students.

Course Contribution Status /	Student Active Program / Subject and Course Number	Row Count	Unduplicated Headcount
Off Path: In Program: Registered: Extra		135	112
Off Path: In Program: Registered: Extra, Previously Completed		47	42

Term ▼	Status	Requirement Type	Requirement	Outcome
2024SPM2	→ Contributing	Class	arts-1304	Enrolled
2024SPM2	→ Contributing	Class	hist-1302	Enrolled
2024SPM1	→ Contributing	Class	hist-1301	Enrolled
2024SP	→ Contributing	Class	arts-1311	Enrolled
2024SP	→ Contributing	Class	biol-1308	Enrolled
2024SP	→ Extra	Class	arts-2356	Enrolled



Off Path

We have also found students retaking Biology and Math.

When we identify these students during registration, we have time to contact the students and determine their intent.

Why are they in the class, was it on purpose, did they realize it was not needed, etc...



What's Next?

As we are slowly developing these tools, we are working with our Advisors to intervene and discuss with students their progress and any of the elements we have found.

We have successfully identified and corrected numerous oversights that occur when processes are manual, such as some graduation and enrollment.



What's Next?

We are working to create the early enrollment issues – such as Off-Path and Near Completers – into an “Extra early” early alert.

We are testing rolling out reports that will target any students that are closer to completion in a different degree to our Advisors, so they can discuss with our students their options.

Possible Completers course needs are being investigated for scheduling issues.



But I don't have a Datawarehouse... what can I do?

Go after low hanging fruit and use data you can get.

- Get a list of all majors with at least 50+ credits. Look to see what they need to complete.
- Get a list of all students with 60-70 credits. Are they complete and don't know it?
- Look for any Technical majors with 50 credits that are in classes that might not be in their major.
- Look at any degrees that have certs embedded. Did everyone who started within a year get awarded?
- Look for any oddities – did a whole class get Incompletes? (true story) Did that delay their graduation?



Discussion and Questions

Thank you for being here and listening to some of the strategies that might produce quick results and can be achievable with even limited resources.

Does anyone have any questions?

Contact me at psanger@alvincollege.edu