

EBCAN

SPOTLIGHT



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East Bay CAN, a partnership between CLPCCD and CSUEB, launched in Spring 2020 to increase certificate and degree attainment for Chabot College, Las Positas College, and CSUEB students.

ILLUMINATING THE TRANSFER JOURNEY

Data and Evidence Compiled By: CLPCCD Institutional Research, Research and Planning Group, and EAB for Analysis

Early in the initiative, the leadership discussed transfer issues, examined student data, and convened focus groups to shed light on the transfer landscape. This important groundwork included two research studies commissioned by the partnership: 1) The Through the Gate Replication Study by the Research and Planning (RP) Group which closely analyzes Chabot and Las Positas student data at critical points in the transfer process; and 2) The East Bay CAN Analysis which uses surveys, focus groups, student data, and process mapping to describe the transfer ecosystem among the partner colleges. Campus leaders have been working together to address the challenges and opportunities suggested by this research.

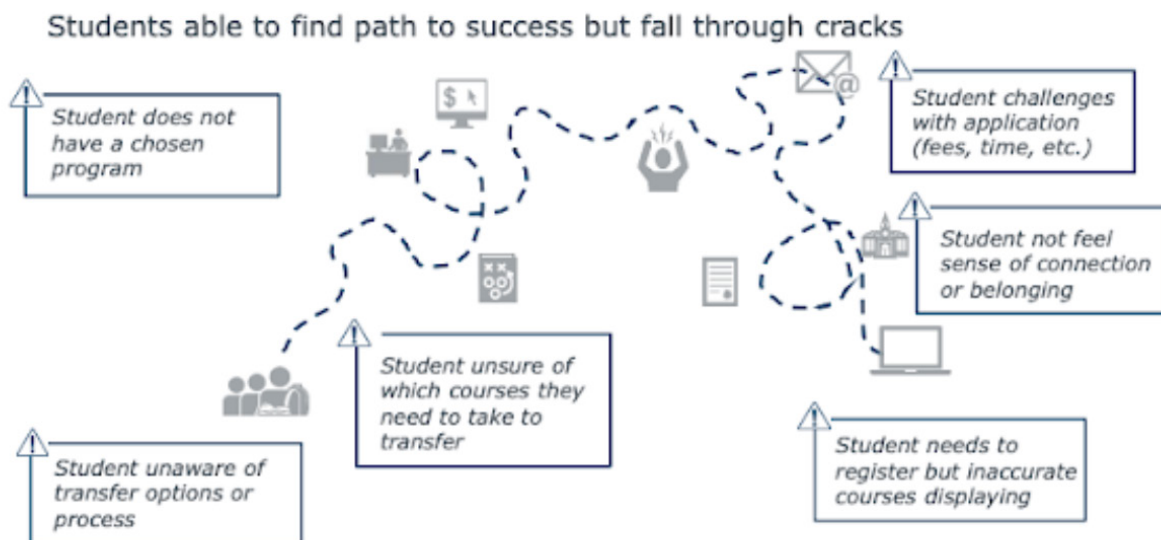


Student at Las Positas College Transfer Center.

THE FINDINGS

The RP Group study takes a close look at “high-leverage” students between summer 2014 and spring 2020 who completed all or most of their transfer requirements—and good news emerges. The majority of CLPCCD students who became transfer-ready over the six-year period ultimately did transfer (77%), as compared to 67% statewide. Despite this positive news, 23% or 3,281 students who demonstrated the ability to transfer did not make it through the transfer gate. A few notable observations about students near the transfer gate: 47% left the community college without a college credential and 50% were missing transfer-level math, suggesting that math is a barrier for many students. Furthermore, both research studies found that students are significantly underprepared when it comes to how to pay for further education at the CSU.

The Analysis research confirms that there is strong momentum for East Bay CAN; however, according to feedback from students, gaps exist along the transfer journey from Chabot College and Las Positas College to CSUEB. The current path is circuitous: students desire more connection, they are challenged by the application process, and they are unsure of which courses to take to transfer (as summarized in the figure below).



Outreach specialist on tour with students.

East Bay CAN has set out to make a clearer path to transfer and address these barriers, many of which require collaboration across the community college and university systems.

The research helped project partners to better understand the transfer landscape and the findings inform redesign planning with students at the center. In 2021, East Bay CAN community colleges and the CSU carved out dedicated time to collaborate across systems, putting leadership in place to participate in ongoing problem-solving sessions to make necessary changes. As highlighted in this newsletter, implementation efforts focus on three broad areas: Technology; Pathway Mapping; and Systems and Support. In 2022, campus-led teams are modifying practices in these three areas to tackle many of the issues uncovered by the research.

“ We strongly believe that the collaboration between CLPCCD and CSUEB faculty will help us to better serve our students as we reimagine these students as our shared responsibility throughout their four-year journey. ”

Dr. Kristina Whalen,
Vice President of Academic Services,
Las Positas College

VISION FOR 2022

Issues from the Research

Unaware of courses needed to transfer

Changes Underway through East Bay CAN

- Use of common student portal with pre-matriculated degree audit to show which courses count before they transfer and in real time
- Mapping ADT to BA/BS pathways to clarify required transfer coursework and progress toward the four-year degree at each step of the way

Unaware of transfer options or process
Exiting without college credentials

- Use of technology to reach students when they veer off track and “push” transfer information and student supports
- Mapping ADT to BA/BS pathways to clarify four-year options and help students to complete degrees efficiently
- Synthesizing transfer resources for easy access
- Increased outreach through campus Transfer Centers, including improving and expanding the reach of transfer events and advising

Lack of connection or belonging

- Stronger connection between affinity groups across campuses including campus visits
- Use of common student portal introduces students to CSUEB community earlier

Fears about paying for college

- Partners learn more about financial impediments and options at CSUEB to prepare better information for students and address barriers
- Transfer Centers investigate greater alignment across institutional silos

KEEPING STUDENTS ON TRACK

DATA SHARING AND TECHNOLOGY

One significant development in the East Bay CAN portfolio is the commitment among partners to share data and technology. Since East Bay CAN's inception, a Technology Leadership Team has collaborated to learn more about the District and CSU systems and discover ways to work efficiently together. Currently, CLPCCD and CSUEB are exploring the use of a common student portal across institutions to track progress toward degree completion. Partners plan to use the CSUEB portal, MyCompass, as a frame for the shared platform. MyCompass is a virtual "one stop shop" for CSUEB students which allows them to track degree progress, schedule appointments, and transact university business. The District and CSUEB aim to pilot a tailored MyCompass tool for Chabot and Las Positas students who have completed 30 units of transferable coursework. The design includes a pre-matriculated degree audit so CLPCCD students can see in real time which courses count toward the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) and four-year degree pathway. The goal is to clarify degree pathways for students, ease anxiety about transfer requirements, and provide students a sense of connection and progress to CSUEB prior to enrolling at the university.

“ This generation has grown up in a digital world and they expect systems to be seamless. This is a chance for them to see that in higher education. From an applications standpoint, CLPCCD speaks one language and CSU another. But if we dig deep enough, we are really saying the same thing. It's a matter of choosing where and how to integrate the two systems. This hasn't been done a lot in higher education. Operating on that leading edge is exciting for us. ”

Bruce Griffin, Chief Technology Officer
Chabot-Las Positas
Community College District



Students studying on campus.

CLPCCD is launching a student engagement tool in 2022, called Advise, which connects students with the full range of supports they may need to complete a program of study. Advise will allow CLPCCD to send early alerts to students and empower support professionals to reach out to students in need.

“ We can conduct the degree audit earlier to reduce anxiety and frustration for students. The goal is to create a pre-transfer portal which displays the degree audit in conjunction with pathway roadmaps. Students can feel confident that they are on track. By the time CLPCCD students fully enroll here, they will be familiar with the CSU system and feel a part of the CSUEB community. ”

Dr. Maureen Scharberg,
Dean of Academic Programs and Services
California State University, East Bay

SIMPLIFYING THE STEPS TO THE DEGREE

PATHWAY MAPPING

Pathway Mapping Leadership Teams from the three campuses (Chabot College, Las Positas College, and CSUEB) are creating four-year program maps for students who plan to complete their education at CSUEB. These intersegmental maps will clarify course selection for each year of the college degree quest, reduce unnecessary unit accumulation, and ease the transfer process for students. This important work is well underway. The three colleges have mapped eleven (11) most in demand degree pathways (Associate for Transfer degrees or Associate degrees). CLPCCD faculty, Guided Pathways leads, and Articulation Officers are meeting with their CSUEB counterparts this Spring to review the program maps together. This intersegmental opportunity will enable discipline faculty to confirm degree alignment, address any disconnects, and discuss areas for collaboration. Once finalized, the four-year program maps will help students to complete their degrees efficiently.

DEGREE

pathways

mapped through
EAST BAY CAN

Biological Sciences

Kinesiology

Business Administration

Liberal Studies (Elementary Teacher Education)

Communication

Psychology

Computer Science (AS Degree)

Sociology

Criminal Justice

Public Health Science

Human Development (Childhood & Adolescent, Early Childhood)

CROSSING THE TRANSFER THRESHOLD

SYSTEMS + SUPPORTS

A **Student Supports Leadership Team** is meeting bi-monthly to coordinate student supports across the East Bay CAN network. The Chabot College and Las Positas College Transfer Centers are a nexus for increased collaboration, coordination, and proactive student outreach among partner institutions. East Bay CAN resources allow for increased leadership to deepen cross-system collaboration and implement new approaches to help students cross the transfer threshold.

“ Students want ways to connect with campus representatives beyond workshops and events. They want to ease that anxiety around making the transition to university and so building the connection between learning communities, student clubs, and affinity groups across the colleges is important to this next phase of work. ”

Terrance Thompson,
Career and Transfer Center Coordinator
Las Positas College

“ We want students early on to realize that they don't need to rule out the university because of the cost. We can clarify the process of paying for college and how financial aid packages work at the CSU. We need to understand where the financial impediments are for community college students transferring to university. This is a huge question that we can tackle together and learn from each other. ”

Frances Fon, Counselor/Instructor, Transfer Center, Chabot College

Student services leaders are focused on several objectives for 2022:



Provide a Soft Landing for Students at CSUEB.

The colleges are focusing more on the hand-off of students from the community college to CSUEB, most especially strengthening the connection with learning communities, clubs, and affinity groups at CSUEB. As a first step, this involves creating a crosswalk of terms, resources, and contacts so that college practitioners and students understand where they can find similar affinity groups and student supports on the CSUEB campus.



Synthesize Resources for Transfer.

The Transfer Centers provide an overview of the transfer process, including specific information for students interested in CSUEB. Through East Bay CAN, CLPCCD is launching “Pioneer Bound,” a tool to send announcements to students planning to transfer to CSUEB. The colleges and CSUEB have an opportunity to review these resources as a team and address missing pieces. In 2022 the partners aim to clarify the steps to transfer together and distill CSUEB transfer information and resources into one easy-to-access resource.



Expand on Pioneer Days and Transfer Weeks.

Pre-pandemic, the partnership sponsored a campus “Pioneer Day” to orient students to transfer requirements and options at CSUEB. Last year East Bay CAN hosted a virtual “Pioneer Week” for Chabot and Las Positas students pursuing transfer to CSUEB. The partners are exploring ways to build on these events. A related goal is to offer transfer weeks in the Spring and Fall to connect students to resources and information, including application deadlines, required paperwork, paying for college, campus visits, and a transfer panel featuring CLPCCD students who have successfully matriculated at CSUEB.

Learn More About Paying for the Four-Year Degree.

The research findings reveal that paying for college is a major issue for students. Transfer services often focus on the application process and how to enroll at CSUEB, but students also need help understanding how to pay for the four-year degree. The partners see a need to investigate this topic further. This may involve convening student focus groups to unpack financial anxieties and barriers for students transferring to the university—ultimately resulting in better materials for students.



NEXT STEPS

In the campus-led conversations around East Bay CAN, college practitioners are strategizing how to help students who are stuck at the transfer gate. Going forward, the partners will continue to focus on proactive supports for students in need, including taking a closer look at math as a barrier to transfer success. The goal is to implement a comprehensive, integrated, and student-centered network that gives every student a clear path to graduation.

Stay tuned for the next issue featuring East Bay CAN students.