



California Community Colleges

SYSTEM WEBINAR SUMMARY:

Program Pathways Mapper in Action (June 2025)

This webinar (see [part 1](#) and [part 2](#) of the recording) focused on implementation and use of the Program Pathways Mapper (PPM). Guest presenters included Shirley Asher and Steve Middleton of Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC), and Melissa Sakoonphong and Angela Burk-Herrick of Chaffey College.

What Is the History and Vision of PPM?

- [PPM](#) is basically like Google maps for your college catalog, designed to help students navigate pathways that have multiple options. Development of the tool comes out of work on the Guided Pathways framework that calls for us to create clear program maps for students to follow. Former Chancellor Oakley gave funds to Bakersfield College to work on development of an online system for the entire system.
- PPM is designed to bring clarity amid complexity, saving students time and money that has often been lost to inefficient course-taking. It takes standard sources of technical information and translates it into a more intuitive format. The tool pulls information from the curriculum inventory (both local and COCI) for consistency.
- PPM clarifies for students what has been a maze of transfer requirements, showing them what courses they need, when to take them, and how they connect across segments. Use of PPM increases students' commitment and empowers counselors.
- PPM is helpful in laying out Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) pathways but is particularly useful for clarifying complex pathways to and through STEM majors that are very difficult for students to navigate. It is also helpful in laying out career education certificate, degree, and apprenticeship pathways.
- Counselors can use PPM with high school students, working with their counseling colleagues to ensure that students get a chance to engage with the mapper early on in their thinking about their goals and college options. Discipline faculty can engage with the PPM to ensure program information accurate, and work with their CSU/UC counterparts to ensure pathways are aligned and accurately reflected.

What Is the Current Landscape and Impact of PPM?

- The Vision 2030 Transfer Work Plan identifies PPM as central to the state's strategy to improve transfer outcomes, supporting goals and metrics related to increasing the number of California Community College (CCC) students who earn a bachelor's degree, expanding the use and clarity of the ADT, and reducing confusion and

excess units along the pathway.

- [Active users](#) of PPM include 80 CCCs, 10 California State Universities (CSUs) and 3 University of California (UC) campuses.
- Compared to non-PPM campuses, colleges that are active users of PPM have improved more rapidly in two key areas. They demonstrate a larger decrease in units accumulated at the time of degree award and a greater increase in transfer outcomes.
- PPM campuses have higher growth in their web traffic, reflecting high student demand for clear, visual program maps. More views means more impact on student progress and outcomes.
- Recent enhancements in PPM accommodate CalGETC patterns and Common Course Numbering (AB 1111), and the display of non-credit institution hours and credit for prior learning options. PPM 2.0 is under development, with an even better student interface and improved administrative functionality for colleges. Beta testing is beginning soon and rollout will begin in September.

How are Colleges Implementing and Using PPM?

- Chaffey College is a “super user” of PPM, having implemented it in 2019. The college had already developed program maps in PDF form but realized they could not sustain those long term and needed another option to make them adaptable.
- Use of PPM has helped the college with curriculum alignment internally and with partners, and simplified clean-up of courses or programs that are no longer offered. It helped the college eliminate some local degrees that were not especially useful for students and created confusion with ADTs.
- The Pathway and Emphasis options in PPM are used by counselors to provide tailored guidance to students about specific transfer majors. The tool helps students see options and pathways within the college’s [meta majors](#).
- Chaffey reviews its academic maps every year in alignment with its curriculum process to identify what curriculum needs to be modified or deactivated in the tool. They have a separate process to maintain programs or courses that are not affected by the curriculum cycle (e.g. updating a GE requirement or moving a course from one semester to another).

What [Resources](#) Can Help Colleges Get Active with PPM?

- The state has allocated funds for colleges and universities to implement PPM at no cost, with initial grants issued in 2025. The next round of [grants](#) will be opened in September 2025, with \$60,000 available per college.
- Please note that the next systemwide webinar will be held on the **second** Wednesday of the month, July 9th, rather than the first Wednesday.