State of Personal and Career Exploration Pathways at Bakersfield College

A significant outcome for the Personal and Career Exploration (PCE) Pathway includes a 77% decrease in first time in college students entering the pathway. Since 2015, BC has been collaborating with local high school districts to provide dual enrollment. In particular, BC has offered the “Get Focused, Stay Focused - Career Choices” curriculum to ninth grade students. By twelfth grade, students have identified a clear path to complete higher education within an appropriate pathway. This model has significantly closed the equity gap for our Hispanic/Latinx students, decreasing by 77%, from 832 first-time students in Fall 2014 to 193 first-time students in Fall 2018.

Five Year Trend, Disaggregated by Demographics

Over the last 5 years, first-time students are now entering the path with a distinct Learning and Career Pathway; thus, there has been a decline in the number of first-time students in the Personal and Career Exploration Pathway (see graph below).

In the last 5 years, the equity gap has closed for Hispanic/Latinx students in the PCE pathway, from 832 first-time students to 193 first-time students.
Similar declines can be found in the PCE pathway by age. The number of 19 and younger first-time students have moved into a Learning and Career Pathway.

![First-Time Student Headcount for Personal and Career Exploration Pathway, by Age Group](image)

**Momentum Points**

Due to the unique nature of the pathway we saw a decrease in all momentum points (see graphs below). Ideally, students will come into BC with a plan in mind, and follow that pathway to completion. When students come in as undecided our goal is to create an environment for them to be able to explore.

![First-Time Personal and Career Exploration Students Attempting 15+ Units in Their First Term](image)
Actions Taken to Advance the Momentum Points

The completion team focused efforts on first cleaning up the pathway data, ensuring all students listed as undecided were truly undecided. This involved all members taking time to outreach to students. More importantly though, the counseling department coaches teamed up to provide career interest workshops for students. Options are limited for students who are truly undecided therefore, it is expected that students in PCE will most likely not meet the momentum points.

Looking Ahead at the Next 3 Years

Moving forward, we will continue to focus on student career exploration through career interest workshops. The PCE team will also collaborate with the Office of Outreach and School Relations to provide career exploration in the high school matriculation process, to support students’ ability to confidently select a pathway.