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(title)

Guided Pathways to Success (GPS) is a program that is used in most colleges and universities.

This program was originally designed to have a direct approach to receive a degree. GPS seems to make a students life easier by putting them on a pathway, but the program has problems that run deeper than the words that are said. This program has drifted away from its original intentions. Students have been stripped of their own freedom due to GPS making their educational decisions for them. “Navigating the complicated path through college is a difficult task for far too many. All students need step-by-step roadmaps and intrusive guidance to on-time completion — saving time and money — and significantly boosting their success” (Guided Pathways). Behind Guided Pathways own words its hidden agenda is revealed. In order for students to succeed in college they do not need a step-by-step data defined pathway. Students also do not need intrusive guidance to receive a proper college education.

Guided Pathways gets all of their information by collecting student data. This data is gathered without a students knowledge or choice. This information is then used to put them on a pathway that they are expected to follow. With gathering this data privacy is being invaded without students consent. Without this data being collected and privacy being invaded students would not be given a pathway. These students basically don't have a choice on whether their privacy gets invaded (Boyd). The data that is used is standardized and explains a students

strengths and weaknesses. Although, this program cannot understand other factors in a student's life. A student is more than what is behind a computer screen.

Social class is another hidden aspect to Guided Pathways. It makes false assumptions on the students within a particular social class. They stereotype certain types of students and categorize them based on their previous education. In education social classes are different in ways such as resources, complexity of courses and teachers (Anyon). The people who monitor GPS could notice that a student from a higher social class, who could afford to take 15 credit hours. Compared to a lower class student who can only afford to take 8 or less credits. Those people may push and lead the student who can afford more classes down a longer class path to help give funds to the school or even GPS. Data and social class should not determine one's future. A student is in control of their own future and program is not.