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In order to succeed in our current society, citizens need at least some form of higher education. An easily accessible option for many students is a community college. However community colleges have different approaches to education than a typical four-year university. A distinct difference is that community colleges heavily endorse a program called Guided Pathways to Success, a program top universities have no desire to implant. Guided Pathways to Success may benefit working class students who value a quick education but it hides a larger issue. Often GPS is used as a means to make a community college appear more successful without actually producing independent and prepared students. Why is a convenient and speedy graduation given priority over how well a student has learned or whether they have the necessary knowledge in their chosen field? Do community colleges cut students slack because they want higher graduation rates? In the end, this harms a community college because their students build a reputation for being unreliable. Are students paying for other things like a “hidden curriculum” that is different in each school? Are students paying for other things than a hidden curriculum? Things like a “social network” that will help them with their careers? Are students being brought up as successful workers or as product reviews for their community college? These issues reflect how college has become a highly commercialized environment, but it highlights how community college students are hit especially hard by this limited way to view success and education.

