

Jacob McWherter, Brendan Feeney, Drew Dennis

Professor Hugh Culik

English 1190

14 April 2016

Collaborative Prospectus

Guided Pathways to “Success”

The number of students who graduate after enrolling for college continues to decline according to national statistics. About half of those who attend a four-year course on a full-time basis successfully manage to graduate. The situation is made worse as those who graduate do so for a prolonged period than the specified time as only a handful graduate on time (Andrew). The increase in the number of those who fail to make it to graduate negates the need to come up with a channel through which the college students can follow to succeed through the duration of the time. Guided pathways to success is suggested as the most appropriate channel through which the students can work towards attaining their educational goals (Brendan). GPS enforces a framework that is applied to assist students in completing their education on time while at the same time achieving academic superiority.

Education continues to play a crucial role when it comes to the advancement of knowledge and skills to students. However, there is a need to worry about the number of students who fail to complete education. It is an issue that should be dealt with, owing to the fundamental part that education has to play when it comes to a particular countries economic progress. The United States has particularly witnessed an overall decline in the number of students who com-

plete their education. The effect of this is that the country risks a shortage of labor where just a few individuals have the skill set to undertake jobs that have been given to them. The inability to address the situation in time has the effect of reducing the overall number of students who end up completing their college education. The risk of the number of those failing to graduate from college has detrimental effects on America.

It would be a helpful program for someone who is simply looking to go to college, and get out as soon as possible. Not everyone who goes to college is looking for the “college experience.” A lot of students go into college knowing what field they want to go into and want to finish that degree as soon as possible. Guided Pathways to success is also a cheaper way of going through college. Guided Pathways to success makes students only take the classes that they will actually need to get their degree, requiring the student to only pay for the classes they need. “On average, U.S. bachelor’s degree graduates earned 12 credits that didn’t count toward their majors costing themselves and taxpayers nearly \$6 billion a year” (Guided Pathways).

Guided pathways also has a few issues, privacy being a large one. Being signed up for the guided pathways system, student information is sent off campus voiding and laws, keeping academic information private, and allowing personal data to flow to outside sources. A critique of the digital revolution and the way in which big data are being used to “monetise” human activities such as education — says the safeguarding of students’ privacy is becoming “an enormous concern” (Keen). Companies and programs are beginning to get more and more involved in the education system which may give them the ability to exploit information or data they have collected about students for money. Obviously students are not in favor of this insecure transfer and sharing of data especially when they have no control over it. If the student wants to pass the class they must do the homework which is posted on a secondary website like Pearson. Now

Pearson has personal academic data on that student, and the student doesn't have a choice because it's either share their data and allow Pearson to have their personal data, or fail the class for not doing the work.

For an individual to be successful on their Guided Pathway, they must undergo some requirements first. The main requirement is the idea of 24/7 surveillance. Surveillance of the student includes, listening in on cell phone conversations, tracking where a student's location is all-day every-day, etc. Programs such as GPS and Skyfactor are aimed at using surveillance as a part of guiding a student onto success. Data must be collected and the only way to obtain the data is through the surveillance. This makes an individual wonder where the data is going and why the programs need locations of students. Could guided pathways be a breach on a student's privacy, and how does this privacy breach make students feel?