

LEGACY SYSTEM META-MAJOR IMPLEMENTATION

Background

In 2016, five colleges were awarded a multi-year College Spark grant to implement Guided Pathways. The SBCTC was also provided funding to assist with the implementation and evaluation efforts for the work. In 2017, another five colleges were awarded College Spark funds. In addition, the legislature invested in those 10 colleges as well as 2 early adopter AACC Pathways colleges for a total of 12 colleges; this is a multi-million dollar investment in the Guided Pathways reform. The College Spark work plan that grantee colleges must follow includes approximately 20 minimum reporting requirements aligned with the Guided Pathways essential practices. One of the essential practices is a redesign of program offerings within meta-majors (also referred to as Areas of Study), which are clusters of programs within a broad career area (e.g., health sciences, social sciences, information technology, humanities, etc.). The adoption of meta-majors will provide students clearer options and allow them to choose a career pathway earlier, helping them to stay on track.

In order to comply with the reporting and accountability required by funders and other stakeholders, Guided Pathways colleges need to track students by meta-major. The grant requirements that specify the implementation items around meta-majors for the College Spark funded colleges are as follows:

- Students who do not have a specific Program of Study in mind are required to choose a meta-major in a broad field of interest with a default curriculum that gives them a taste of the given field
- Every new credential-seeking student is helped to explore career/college options, choose a meta-major upon enrollment, and enter a Program of Study within no more than two quarters
- Program monitoring: progress on academic plans is monitored on an ongoing basis. This includes tracking, monitoring, and ability to report on:
 - Number of students in each meta-major and how many students are in an exploratory course sequence for their meta-major

In the current HP9000 Legacy data system there is no functionality designed to track meta-majors. The individual colleges can gather and maintain this information individually, but a system-wide solution designed to track meta-majors is helpful for several reasons. First, modifications to the Legacy structure will enable a cost-effective approach for all colleges ensuring uniformity in data collection and reporting. Second, a system-wide approach to tracking the meta-majors provides foundational common language that is inherent in the Guided Pathways model. Third, a unified approach would allow SBCTC to provide support and reporting on the colleges behalf, which is not possible unless data is collected consistently and at the system-level.

In November of 2018, the system's Data Governance Committee has approved the request and methodology for implementing meta-major coding in the legacy system as described in the rest of this document.

How will meta-majors be implemented in the legacy system?

A new table will be created within the legacy TBL3 database that will contain a set of valid meta-major codes and their descriptions. A new, foreign-keyed field will be added to the EDUC-PRG-M table to store the associated meta-major code for each Educational Program Code (EPC).

College staff will use screen SM5006 to assign a meta-major code from the list of valid options to each applicable EPC code.

In addition, the meta-major code will be added to the following screens for view only:

- SM700A – Registration
- SM7001 – Registration
- SM2001 – Admissions
- SM4002 – Registration/Admissions
- SM5018 – Enrollment Matrix
- SM6015 – Student Transcript
- SM5017 – Student Quarterly Data

What are the meta-major codes?

The SBCTC Research team collaborated with college research and instruction staff to determine a system “pool” of meta-majors codes. Each college will determine which codes are applicable for their use. You do not need to use each meta-major code that is available, only the codes most applicable to your college’s programs.

Below is the current listing of valid meta-major codes:

Global meta-major title	Global meta-major code
Aerospace	AERO
Arts and communication	ACOM
Arts, humanities, and communication	AHCM
Automotive and trades	TRAD
Business	BUSN
Business and information technology	BSIT
Education	EDUC
Education, social science, and public services	EDSP
Exploratory	EXPL
Healthcare	HLTH
Hospitality	HOSP
Humanities	HUMA
Information technology	ITEC
Manufacturing and aerospace	MAAR
Manufacturing and trades	MATR
Public services	PBSV

Social and behavioral science	SOCS
Social science and public service	SSPS
Social science/services and education	SSED
STEM	STEM
Transportation	TRAN

Are all colleges required to code meta-majors?

No, only colleges currently participating in the Guided Pathways grants are required. Colleges not currently in a Guided Pathways cohort may choose to code their meta-majors, but it is not required at this time.

When will meta-majors be available in the legacy system?

Spring Quarter of academic year 2018-19 will be the initial implementation quarter. Colleges will be given access to the new meta-major field on screen SM5006 by May 2019 to begin data entry. Screens with view only meta-major code additions will be available shortly thereafter.

The data will be added to a new Data Warehouse table in early July 2019 for the SBCTC Research team to begin data validation.

No official reporting will occur on meta-major coding in the SBCTC Data Warehouse during the 2018-19 academic year. Summer quarter of the 2019-20 academic year will be the first year and quarter for official reporting of meta-majors.

What about ctcLink?

Facilitated requirements gathering sessions will begin in the spring of 2019 to determine the most effective implementation approach of Guided Pathways as well as meta-majors in the PeopleSoft ctcLink application.

Who do I contact with questions?

Please direct questions related to Guided Pathways to Thomas Mankovich at tmankovich@sbctc.edu

Please direct technical questions related to coding to SBCTC Data Services at dataservices@sbctc.edu

