# BC Pathways Case Statement

## What is Guided Pathways?

[Guided Pathways](https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/student-success-center/guided-pathways.aspx) is a national, research-based model that two- and four-year colleges around the country are implementing with [promising results](https://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/media/k2/attachments/building-guided-pathways-community-college-student-success.pdf). Its fundamental elements include helping students choose a broad academic or career goal, giving them an academic plan to help them achieve their goal, and providing them with the institutional support they need to complete it.

## Who decided we need pathways?

During the 2017-18 academic year, the Achieving the Dream (ATD) Core and Data Teams, made up of faculty and staff from across campus, reviewed data specific to Bellevue College and identified student success metrics in six areas (Equity, Persistence, Momentum, Basic Skills Transitions, Completion, and Excess Credits). Completion data showed that more than 40% of our students have no credential and are not enrolled in any tertiary educational institution six years after entering BC. When that data is disaggregated by race, only 32% of African American students and 40% of Latinx graduate or transfer from BC in three years. Believing that BC can and must do better, the ATD leadership team identified three areas that would have the greatest impact on student success:

* Adopting the Integrated Student Success and Advising Model
* Providing a comprehensive faculty professional development program
* Implementing a Guided Pathways model to help students find and stay on an educational path.

## How is Pathways different from what students do now?

Currently, we have too many students trying to navigate college requirements on their own. Here are just some of things we expect them to do:

* Decide what credential to pursue from more than 90 degrees and certificates
* Plan how to complete a degree or certificate by choosing what courses to take on their own, including prerequisites and sequences.
* Navigate complex processes like financial aid and other support services
* Seek help from very limited resources (1 advisor for every 900 degree-seeking students at BC)

When navigating these hurdles on their own, many students take courses they may not need, often losing valuable time, dropping out, maxing out financial aid, and/or accumulating debt.

## Why Pathways?

By helping students make *more informed choices* about what courses to take, BC Pathways will help close our equity gaps, create a more intentional experience for students, and give them the support they need to achieve their academic and career goals.