

Guided Pathways and Meta-Majors (Exploratory Programs) References:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/09/11/rhode-island-college-aims-improve-retention-meta-majors>

Rhode Island College has **five** exploratory majors:

1. business,
2. humanities,
3. science/math,
4. social or
5. behavioral sciences

<http://valenciacollege.edu/academic-affairs/new-student-experience/meta-majors.cfm>

Meta-Majors are collections of academic majors that have related courses. Meta-Majors cluster groups of majors that fit within a career area. There are eight Meta-Majors used by colleges in the state of Florida. Within each Meta-Major are degrees and certificates that have related courses. The intent of selecting a Meta-Major is to help students choose a major and degree based on their interests, knowledge, skills and abilities. Selecting a Meta-Major will also help students select classes that relate to a specific degree. All degree-seeking students (AA and AS) need to decide upon a Meta-Major.

The eight Meta-Majors are:

- (a) Arts, Humanities, Communication and Design,**
- (b) Business,**
- (c) Education,**
- (d) Health Sciences,**
- (e) Industry/Manufacturing and Construction,**
- (f) Public Safety,**
- (g) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, and**
- (h) Social and Behavioral Sciences and Human Services.**

With a Meta-Major, students can narrow down their choice in major and begin developing an educational plan that leads to degree completion. Valencia introduces Meta-Majors on the application. During the assessment process students take a Career Review that provides more in-depth information on Meta-Majors. Students select two Meta-Majors of interest after reviewing specific careers related to each area. During New Student Orientation, Advisors review these choices with students and discuss possible degree programs and math pathways. Students register for their first term in the appropriate courses that align with their educational path.

Valencia's Meta Major Degrees

Redesigning America's Community Colleges (index): 22;

developmental education and, 137, 141, 142;
guided pathways model and, 211, 216, 217;
program redesign and, 208, 210;
student experience and, 203, 206;
student support services and, 68, 69, 71-72, 77

FCDC, February 5, 2015, Kate Pluta, Dean of Instruction

Outcomes for Meta-Majors Discussion, FCDC, Friday, February 5, 2016

1. Develop common definition of meta-major that includes all programs.
2. Identify degrees and certificates that fit in meta-majors.

What can we do right now?

1. Examine our Models, which include embedded counselors/advisors, coaches, Supplemental Instruction, Financial Aid
 - a. Allied Health
 - b. STEM
2. Determine our initial step in establishing pathway for consistent first semester for students including resources needed.
3. Coordinate people in groups to begin the discussions.
4. Identify cluster of programs to use as pilot
5. Identify support within meta-majors

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