GATEWAY TO COLLEGE

Portland Community College’s nationally recognized education model serving dropout youth
PCC Prep Alternative Programs

Creating Access and Alternatives for Youth

Gateway to College

High School Completion

MAP (ESL)

Self, School, Community Referral

YES! (GED)
Gateway to College

- **Major objectives**
  - Provide an accessible route to college
  - Teach foundational skills in a learning community
  - Provide wrap-around support
  - Connect high school requirements with college through career majors
Why Gateway To College?

- It is important to challenge myths about dropouts: They CAN do college work.

- Failure in high school was generally not due to lack of academic ability but to challenges in:
  - Motivation
  - Peer relationships
  - Self-esteem
  - Trust
  - Study skills
  - Family issues
  - Adjustment to non-native language and different educational system
What Is The Model?

- High school completion and associate degree or significant college credit
- Rigorous curriculum and high expectations for student achievement
- Ongoing student support
- Initial learning community experience to build skills and acclimate students to college
Essential Elements Of Gateway To College

- Part of the college, located on campus
- A small learning community for each student’s first term
  - Builds and strengthens academic skills
  - Teaches and reinforces positive learning behaviors
  - Prepares students for success in an adult learning environment
- Students begin to transition to PCC’s general (adult) population after one term
Essential Elements Of Gateway To College

- Intensive student evaluation and selection process
- Flexible scheduling
- Teams of specialized adults collaborate to serve students:
  - Instructors skilled in K – 12 and college teaching
  - Resource specialists skilled in motivation, problem solving, academic advising, and social service referrals
  - Ongoing collaboration and communication promote student achievement and accountability
- Career majors (pathways) align high school completion requirements with college degree or certificate requirements
Student Eligibility Profile

- Between 16 and 20 years old
- Out of school or on the verge of dropping out
- Behind in high school credits (for age and grade level)
- GPA of 2.0 or below
- Lives in an eligible school district
- Expressed goal to complete high school diploma

Average Age: 17.2 yrs
Average High School GPA: 1.7
Average High School Credits: 7.8
Funding and Administration

- Gateway to College is funded through agreements with local K–12 school districts (i.e., MOU, contract) or a charter agreement.
- Districts pass through a portion of per-pupil expenditure to pay for student tuition and books.
- Funding mechanism varies (ADA, ADM, snapshot).
- Gateway to College is an economical program using existing college infrastructure.
Gateway to College Works!

Mark

- 19 years old
- 10.25 HS credits/1.0 GPA at entry
- 76 college credits/3.66 GPA at exit
- Earned AS Oregon Transfer Degree, Spring 2006
  - 3.28 GPA, 143 college credits
- Pre-Med
- Continuing Education at PSU
Gateway to College Works!

Leah

- 16 years old
- 7.5 HS credits/1.1 GPA at entry
- Earned HS Diploma with 91 college credits, 3.3 GPA at exit
- Student body president, Cascade Campus
- Earned both AA and AS Oregon Transfer Degrees, Spring 2006
  - 3.47 GPA, 139 college credits
- Continuing university education in South Dakota
For More Information

- For information on the Gateway to College model at PCC or other PCC Prep programs contact Linda Huddle at 503-788-6119 or lhuddle@pcc.edu

- For information on the national replication project or to find out how to apply contact Laurel Dukehart at 503-788-6226 or ldukehar@pcc.edu

- Visit our website: www.gatewaytocollege.org