

UNDERSTANDING PROGRAM PLANNING

Using Program Maps

As part of SUCCESS! Pathways, MSJC has introduced Program Maps. These maps are a clear semester-by-semester sequence of the courses needed to complete a major program of study. Each map identifies the courses that must be completed by a certain semester in order to progress through the program and graduate on time.

Program maps are located in each instructional program area of the catalog and as downloadable files (https://www.msjc.edu/pathways/program_maps.html) on the MSJC website.

Program Maps were developed by program experts (Counselors and discipline faculty) to give you the skills and knowledge you need to succeed. The maps encourage students to take at least 15 credits each semester but can easily be adapted for part-time students. Program Maps give students the tools they need to clearly understand what classes they need to take and to help them define their individual pathways. In the catalog, the maps also offer a "Career and Transfer Outlook" section for each degree program, as well as other helpful notes and information.

During students' first semester, it is important to meet with an MSJC Counselor to create a personalized, comprehensive educational plan. Counselors will help ensure that planned courses meet the student's transfer and career goals. Many four-year colleges and universities request that specific courses be completed prior to transfer. If a student plans to transfer to a four-year college or university, meeting with an MSJC Counselor each semester for course planning is critical and important.