

Promise Pathways FAQs

- Q. What is the purpose of Promise Pathways?
- A. The goals of the Promise Pathways are to increase the number and pace of local students' college completions by: increasing academic preparation in high school, aligning that preparation to college expectations, and creating well defined and supportive educational pathways for all students toward their goals.
- Q. How does Promise Pathways relate to the Long Beach College Promise?
- A. The [Long Beach College Promise](#) is a partnership between Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD), LBCC and California State University Long Beach (CSULB) to increase local students' preparation for and success in higher education which began in March of 2008. It grew out of the long-standing Seamless Education Partnership. Long Beach high school graduates receive preferential admission to CSULB or a Promise Scholarship at LBCC (among other benefits) if they enroll immediately after graduation. While the Long Beach College Promise has attracted more local students to LBCC and provided unprecedented financial aid to our students, there is recognition that our college can do more to help local students reach meaningful educational goals. This is the reason why we are developing the Promise Pathways.
- Q. How does Promise Pathways fit into the planning structure at LBCC?
- A. The structure of Promise Pathways integrates the work done in the Long Beach College Promise and in the LBCC Student Success Plan to maximize and build on our already existing efforts. Much of the work we will do will continue to occur in collaboration with CSULB and LBUSD in the Long Beach Promise Initiative Groups (see organizational chart) and will be coordinated through the Student Success Committee to make sure it aligns with the Educational Master Plan and the Student Success Plan.
- Q. How does the Promise Pathways connect to the Student Success Plan?
- A. The Promise Pathways agenda is a key component of the Student Success Plan. Initially, through the Promise Pathways, we will target incoming first-time students from LBUSD, which is a small subset of all LBCC students covered by the Student Success Plan. As Promise Pathways strategies are successful, our goal will be to quickly broaden the pathways to include all LBCC students through the existing Student Success Plan framework.
- Q. How does Promise Pathways relate to the Promise Scholarship?
- A. Starting in Fall 2011, the Promise Scholarship guarantees that the cost of enrollment fees will be covered for all of our students who graduate from a LBUSD high school, St. Anthony, St. Joseph, or Mayfair High School in Lakewood. Building on the financial support of the Promise Scholarship, starting in Fall 2012 Promise Pathways will provide incoming LBUSD graduates additional structures and resources to increase their preparation for college and their ability to successfully achieve their educational goals once they arrive. Students will not be required to participate in Promise Pathways to receive the Promise Scholarship.
- Q. Who can participate in Promise Pathways?
- A. The first target group for Promise Pathways for Fall 2012 is LBUSD students who normally come to us in the Fall term immediately after graduation (which is approximately 1,700 students).

This represents approximately 20% of new students. Once Promise Pathways has been successfully implemented for local high school students, the plan is to include other interested students into facets of the program.

Q. Why is the first Promise Pathways cohort in Fall 2012 limited to Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) students?

A. Our Promise Pathways agenda will significantly change the experience for students entering LBCC, providing more prescriptive guidelines and integrated services in order to better prepare students academically and then support their progress towards completion of a certificate, degree, or transfer. The key to increasing student academic preparation is to better align k-12 expectations with college-level expectations. LBUSD has already agreed to work closely with our faculty and staff to align coursework and to make changes to their students course-taking patterns and their curriculum. Thus, it makes the most sense to start with this group of students where we can have the most impact on their early preparation and success and take advantage of the existing processes that are already in place to increase the seamlessness of their transition to LBCC. Once we have learned what works well, we will immediately look to expand involvement in Promise Pathways with other student groups and partnerships with other major local school districts.

Q. What are the benefits for students who participate in Promise Pathways?

A. For students who participate in Promise Pathways, we will ensure enrollment in the courses they need to complete their declared academic goal and will provide additional academic support resources as well as regular and sustained mentoring/coaching.

Q. How will students not in Promise Pathways be impacted?

A. Our first group of Promise Pathways students will include up to 1,700 students, which is only 20% of new students and 6% of the total student population. This means that while Promise Pathway students will receive priority registration benefits, this should have a minimal impact on the general enrollment experience for other students.

Q. How will Promise Pathways affect faculty course loads?

A. Exactly how in the development of the Promise Pathways will affect faculty is unclear at this time. However, we are developing meaningful incentives to support faculty involvement in the Promise Pathways agenda as well as considerations for any unforeseen adverse impacts of its implementation .

Q. What are the requirements for students who participate in Promise Pathways?

A. Students will be required to sign a contract committing them to participate in identified academic activities proven to help students be successful. During the first semester, they will be required to take a more prescriptive course load which will help them complete any necessary basic skills coursework in English, reading, math, and ESL as early as possible. Each semester, students will be required to complete at least 12 units with a 2.0 GPA or higher.

Q. What is the difference between Promise Pathways and other learning communities and support programs like EOPS?

A. Promise Pathways builds upon the successful components of EOPS and our other learning communities. This means that Promise Pathways will have strong counseling/guidance components, will build in smaller communities of student learners, and will provide integrated

and targeted support services. In addition, Promise Pathways has a focus on aligning curriculum with LBUSD and CSULB to increase student preparation and to move students more quickly to certificates, degrees, and transfer. Growing out of the Long Beach Promise, Promise Pathways capitalizes on the existing cooperation between these partners to create systems and resources for all students instead of the smaller numbers of students we can typically accommodate in learning communities.

Q. How is LBCC paying for Promise Pathways?

A. LBCC is actively seeking funding for Promise Pathways through grant opportunities. In addition, Promise Pathways is being coordinated with the Student Success Plan, the Educational Master Plan, and the Board of Trustees goals, so that existing resources that have been set aside to meet these planning goals can be allocated to the Promise Pathways agenda.

Q. Who is driving Promise Pathways?

A. Promise Pathways will be a tremendous undertaking with an ambitious agenda. We will all, everyone of us, need to be involved to make the systems and services come together in a way that will provide our students with the necessary platform they deserve from which they can launch their futures. Ultimately, the Promise Pathways is built upon the Long Beach College Promise structure, and the faculty and staff who represent LBCC on the Promise Initiative Committees (see organizational structure) will lead the agenda as they work with their peers at LBCC as well as those from LBUSD and CSULB. A Promise Pathways Coordinating Team, co-chaired by the faculty chair of the Student Success Committee and the Vice President for Student Support Services, will facilitate the integration of the work from the Promise Initiative Committees and report back to the Student Success Committee, which oversees the Student Success Plan at the College. Faculty in key disciplines (such as English, reading, ESL, and math) will have indispensable roles in determining curriculum alignment efforts, and faculty and staff from all disciplines and areas of the college will be needed to build the student pathways and support structures. Importantly, students will also be involved in contributing input on, feedback about, and completion of key components of the Pathways agenda because ultimately it cannot succeed without them.

Q. What role will faculty (full-time and part-time) have in Promise Pathways?

A. Our faculty are absolutely critical to and have and will continue to be involved in every aspect of the development and ultimately the success of Promise Pathways. Among many roles, our faculty are needed to help guide the alignment of curriculum between LBUSD and CSULB (both general education and CTE), to provide coaching for participating students, to develop and implement support structures and services, to develop scheduling pathway plans for full-time and part-time Promise students, and to build common student success agendas with LBUSD, CSULB, and other community partners.

Q. What role will staff have in Promise Pathways?

A. Staff are also critical to the success and development of Promise Pathways. All of our staff are needed to support the alignment of curriculum between LBUSD and CSULB (both general education and CTE), to provide coaching for participating students, to develop and implement support structures and services, and to review and simplify organizational processes and structures that impact the ability of students, faculty, and staff to further the Promise Pathways agenda.

Q. How can I get involved?

A. There are many opportunities coming soon for you to get involved. For those interested in taking a leading role, there will be a chance to serve on one of the Long Beach Promise Initiative Committees (Preparation for College, Counseling Initiative, Expanding Pathways (CTE), and Postsecondary Success) or on an ad-hoc taskforce connected to a Promise Initiative Committee. Departments will be approached to discuss the development of scheduling pathway plans, and broad input will be needed. All staff and faculty will also be invited to serve in coaching roles for Promise students. There is also a Promise Pathways website coming on which you can leave feedback and suggestions to be incorporated into the agenda.

Q. How do I learn more?

A. To learn more about Promise Pathways, look for the new Promise Pathways website which will go live on _____. You can also contact Mark Taylor (x. 4206) to access handouts on Promise Pathways or to schedule a small group presentation.

Q. Isn't Promise Pathways a really cool agenda?

A. For years, faculty and staff at LBCC have changed individual students' lives by helping them achieve their academic goals despite challenges they faced. The goal of Promise Pathways is to harness all of these successful efforts and institutionalize them so that all students can benefit from the knowledge, experience, and passion we collectively have for student success. So, is Promise Pathways a really cool agenda? Yes, yet it is.