

## ALIGNING SCHEDULING AND COURSES TO SUPPORT GUIDED PATHWAYS AT SIERRA COLLEGE



### PROJECT BACKGROUND

Guided Pathways is a reform movement based on four pillars to improve college completion and student success which includes:

- Clarifying the Path by (creating clear pathways to employment and further education)
- Enter the Path (helping students choose and enter their pathway)
- Stay on the Path (helping students stay on their path)
- Ensure Learning (follow through and ensure improved student results)

Inspired by this framework, Sierra College set off to address the first pillar and immediately discovered that students were challenged by registering for classes required to meet their educational objectives. It was clear they needed to create a new vision focused on aligning policies, procedures, and technology to effectively manage their course offerings and to meet students' current and future academic goals.

They engaged SIG to help create an effective solution to streamline a student's journey by providing structured choice and clear learning outcomes—ultimately helping more students achieve their college completion goals.

### INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

Sierra College is one of 116 public California Community Colleges serving more than 2.4 million students. The District is comprised of areas in Placer, Nevada, El Dorado, and Sacramento Counties. Sierra College operates a central campus located in the city of Rocklin, and two satellite campuses located in Grass Valley and Truckee. The District currently serves approximately 24,000 students enrolled in both day and evening classes.

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"The team from SIG were wonderful partners. They were technical experts, process developers, vision creators, software liaisons, and overall champions for student centered change. I appreciated SIG's ability to see the big picture and also dive deep into the weeds with our team." - *Lucas Moosman, Executive Dean, Student Success Instruction*

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

One reason Guided Pathways is challenging to implement is the lack of clarity around success metrics.

Current class offerings providing endless choices can leave students confused about what to choose and how to navigate the different requirements for their degree. Sierra envisioned a solution that simplified students' choices by creating default program maps providing a clear pathway to completion, transfer, further education, and employment.

Working with the faculty, deans, department chairs and staff, SIG provided the following services:

### Analysis

- Re-imagined the curriculum and class schedule development processes. Key components were analyzed (i.e. students' majors, Guided Pathways, degree audits, educational plans, classroom and lab capacities) to develop an ideal process map
- Created criteria for room optimization and assignment
- Identified tools, processes and policies that needed to be procured and changed to implement the new ideal process

### Plan, Procurement, and Implementation

- Created an achievable implementation and change management plan
- Assisted with the procurement for technology solutions including requirements, RFP, scripts and demos
- Identified critical data for use in predictive analytics including the integration with ERP and other data sources and reporting
- Carried out all tasks



## BENEFIT/VALUE

Sierra College now has an automated and efficient process that provides a more modern experience for their students that will help them achieve their goals during their academic journey. Benefits include:

- Better student outcomes
- A class schedule based on student needs, plans, and goals
- Enhanced decision making with the utilization of modern predictive analytics

## HOW SIG CAN HELP

For institutions that are considering Guided Pathways and may be struggling with implementation, SIG can help by providing the following services:

- Process alignment (Back to Basics)
- Project management
- Change management
- Procurement
- Implementation