Academic Skills for Pathways Students

Published 5/26/2023 by Ashley Ribbel

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Imagine you are a student following a pathway from a diploma program into the fifth semester of a degree program. Consider the difference in academic skills required for the third year of a degree program. Will you have all the academic skills required for this pathway? How do you know? Where could you find out? Well now students have a way to gauge their readiness to transfer. Seneca Libraries and Learning Centres partnered with Academic Pathways to explore student needs for transitioning between programs. The **Academic Skills for Pathways Students Program**'s objective is to address the unique needs of pathways students in the development of their academic skills by developing and building learning resources for key skills.

Data was gathered through a survey and a number of focus groups with advisors and pathways students. The findings showed that key academic skill areas for pathways students included critical thinking, research, writing and citations, time management, group work, and discipline-specific foundational concepts. To support these areas, a number of learning resources were developed and others were retooled with new insights. This included a series of self assessments for students, new Learn@Seneca course packages, and a new landing page for academic skills. In the Winter semester 2023, the landing page had 318,976 views, which suggests students are navigating to this resource embedded within all course shells.

Academic Readiness

Are you just starting a new program? These academic readiness checks are self assessments for various skills. These are key skills for succeeding in your program. By the end of each readiness check, you'll know if your skills are top notch or need some refreshing and where at Seneca you can find supports for the skills.

In addition, a quick guide has been created for Seneca faculty and staff to help them understand the unique needs of pathways students and quickly connect them with the resources to support their students. This guide highlights resources geared specifically towards the unique needs of pathways students, but can also be used for any Seneca student. Resources include guides and tutorials from Seneca Libraries, Seneca Learning Centre, and The Learning Portal.

Academic Skills for Pathways Students

This page is for faculty and staff at Seneca College who support pathways students. A pathways student can include students completing a bridge program, transferring into Seneca from another school, students making a change in program etc.

Research findings identified the unique academic skills needed of Seneca pathways students. Highlighted content is from Seneca Libraries, Seneca Learning Centre and the Learning Portal are available through the libraries and learning centre websites. They are also conveniently located on the refreshed Academic Resources page available in all Learn@Seneca (Blackboard) courses. This page is accessed upwards of 2000 times a day by students and has great reach for all students.

Academic Resources on Learn@Seneca

Background

In Fall 2021 research began within Seneca Libraries and Seneca Learning Centre to understand the unique needs of pathways students to better support them in their academic skill development. Through literature reviews, focus groups with students, surveys, meeting with advisors and more, the Academic Skills Program took shape.

Key Findings

🧰 Skills

ℹ️ Academic Help

👉 Findings for Resources and Services for Pathways Students

✅ Academic Readiness Checks

Pathways students frequently expressed an apprehension that academically they were not ready for their new programs, specifically those bridging from diplomas to degrees.

👥 Learn@Seneca Packages

The following packages are specifically developed for pathways students. The packages combine tutorials, workshops, 1:1 appointments, quizzes, tipsheets and more. They can

Through these new and updated resources, we hope to equip faculty with the tools to support students in their programs who may be Academic Pathways students to strengthen their journey towards academic success.

Have some feedback or questions about the Academic Skills for Pathways Students Program? Email pathwaysacademicskills@senecacollege.ca.

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