



PACE Pathways Frequently Asked Questions

with Dr. Linda McAllister and Dr. Laura Ruberto, Co-Coordinator

1. I've heard that PACE has changed—is this true?

The program is being revamped. In its 25+ years PACE has gone through a number of changes, and this is the latest update.

2. People all over the Bay Area talk enthusiastically about PACE. Why change something that's working?

We want PACE to continue to succeed in the ways it has proved itself to be successful, and we are adjusting the program to better serve the diversity of students who have traditionally been drawn to the program.

Since January, we have surveyed students, formally and informally, and we have talked individually and in groups to current and former PACE instructors, other BCC instructors, department chairs, counselors, administrative staff, BCC's curriculum chair, administrators, and others in order to learn what works well and what could work better in PACE.

3. So is that it—no "classic" PACE?

This year we are running what we call a Beta PACE Pathways as well as the classic PACE Program but no new students are starting the classic PACE Program. Beginning in Fall 2014, new students will enter as PACE Pathways students. We will also continue to support students who started with classic PACE and will honor the course sequence of that program for the next two years.

4. If it's a new program, why use the PACE name?

It's not a new program, but an updated version of an existing program. We think names are important and want to grow the PACE name and identity.

5. So, then, what are these adjustments?

In a nutshell:

- PACE Pathways is a two year plus one summer program that allows students to attend classes nights, weekends, and online to complete a minimum of 61 units they need to receive an A.A. degree. (The classic PACE Program was six semesters long plus one summer, and students completed a minimum of 70 units.)
- PACE Pathways includes a path into the program through the PACE Pathways PERSIST Program at BCC. This link allows students entering BCC with basic skills needs to succeed in the PACE Pathways Program by offering them a one-to-two semester bridge. It's also one of the ways that PACE Pathways is using resources and systems that are already in place at BCC, creating a broader community of learners.
- PACE Pathways students will take approximately 80% of their courses together, as a cohort, in the first year of the program, and about 10% of their courses together, as a cohort, in their second year of the program.

(please turn page)





PACE Pathways Frequently Asked Questions

with Dr. Linda McAllister and Dr. Laura Ruberto, Co-Coordinator

(from previous page)

5. So, then, what are these adjustments?

(continued from previous page)

- PACE Pathways students will work with counselors to create an SEP and assist in the curriculum choices they make in their second year in the program, similar to classic PACE.
 - PACE Pathways students will have priority enrollment and some locked classes, similar to classic PACE.
 - PACE Pathways students will have assigned faculty liaisons who will keep in touch with them as they complete their chosen degree path. In the classic PACE Program, students had the same instructor for some courses, and the heart of this idea remains with this change.
 - PACE Pathways students will choose a degree completion “pathway.” These will include a number of the AA-Ts and AS-Ts as well as the A.A. in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Social and Behavioral Science or an emphasis in Arts and Humanities. (The classic PACE Program in recent years offered an A.A. in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Social and Behavioral Science.)
- PACE Pathways students will continue to have the option to complete requirements for transfer to a CSU (e.g., COM 45) but they will also have the option of completing a course of study that will allow them to transfer to a UC as well (e.g., the foreign language requirement).

There is more to the PACE PATHWAYS Program than what can be said here—stay tuned for more information!

