

Survey questions regarding building pathways to majors

July 2021 — Minnesota Private College Fund and Council

### **Disciplines to focus on for pathway to major work**

There is strong interest at our member institutions in some collective effort on pathways to majors, given what we've heard as part of the Council's Transfer Initiative planning effort. This would be a significant project, one that would require the involvement of faculty in the disciplines involved at institutions that would choose to take part. We can request Teagle Foundation funding and learn from other states where private nonprofit colleges have already taken this step. A key early question for us to answer is which handful of disciplines should we focus on at the start.

Your responses below are in no way a commitment on behalf of your institution. We will use these responses to help us identify a smaller set of disciplines to consider. We will review the results with CAOs as well as the Transfer Initiative planning group members.

1. Please share your name, email and title
2. Your institution
3. Which best describes you:
  - a. A participant in the planning process
  - b. A chief academic officer
  - c. Other (describe)
4. In the planning conversations we've had to-date, a few factors have emerged for consideration in choosing disciplines to focus on for developing pathways to majors:
  - a) Strong demand for the major among community college students
  - b) Alignment between what our institutions expect and what Minnesota State has already built out as pathways, given this could contribute to early success
  - c) Softer demand for the major among our existing students, given this could contribute to faculty interest
  - d) If the major is widely available across our institutions

Share any reactions you have to these factors -- and whether others come to mind for you.

5. The Teagle Foundation is interested in funding implementation work supporting community college students transferring into private nonprofit institutions when the

majors involved are in the liberal arts, which the foundation defines as the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and math. Teagle is not interested in supporting pathway work tied to more applied majors, such as nursing or business. (Health care and business majors are among the more popular for students from Minnesota State who transfer to our member institutions.)

How comfortable are you with us allowing Teagle's focus on the liberal arts to guide our choice of disciplines for pathway work? (low comfort, moderate comfort, high comfort)

6. List five disciplines you would suggest we focus on for developing pathways to majors. (First through fifth)
7. Please share any other feedback or suggestions.