

January 15, 2013

Dear College of Staten Island Student:

You may have heard about The City University of New York's Pathways initiative. This general education and transfer initiative will be implemented across CUNY in fall 2013. Pathways will help students transfer among CUNY's 19 undergraduate colleges—of which the College of Staten Island is one—without losing any credits. The Pathways Framework at the College of Staten Island was developed by our faculty and represents a quality general education curriculum. With Pathways, students will be able to complete their college education faster and will have an opportunity to be introduced to a broad spectrum of courses.

How will Pathways accomplish these important goals? Although students will be required to complete the same total number of credits as in the past, they will not have to repeat courses or take additional courses when they transfer. As a result, it is more likely that a student's selection of courses will be eligible to be covered by financial aid. Because the total number of Pathways general education credits will now be consistent with national norms, students will potentially have more electives than they currently do. This provides students with more choice in their courses and enables them to complete minors and double majors more easily.

Most importantly, all of the courses associated with Pathways are being developed and closely reviewed by CUNY faculty. The College of Staten Island continues to have a tradition of providing a well-thought-out general education that was developed by faculty at our campus. Now, in addition to the local review, our general education courses are reviewed for their learning objectives by CUNY-wide panels. Under Pathways, every general education course must satisfy specific, rigorous learning outcomes determined by committees of faculty from across the University that are consistent with national best practices. In this way, the courses that a student has taken at one CUNY campus will be recognized when that student transfers to another CUNY campus. For example, with Pathways, the learning outcomes for every general education course on every campus include the enhancement of students' communication and analytical skills—skills that are most important to future employers. In the past, only selected general education courses focused on such skills.

Every CUNY college has the opportunity to offer its own version of Pathways, emphasizing certain disciplines or skills. At CSI, consistent with our previous general education requirements, we have chosen to require all students to enroll in two science

courses with laboratory experiences, as well as require that all students who pursue BA and selected BS degrees are competent in a foreign language. As science and technology play increasing roles in our lives and as we experience a growing globalization of our economy, such an education will prepare our graduates for a productive and fulfilling life.

CUNY's Pathways initiative has received praise from students (see attached resolution passed by CUNY's University Student Senate), as well as from renowned educators at CUNY and around the nation

([http://www.cuny.edu/academics/initiatives/pathways/about/archive/Pathways\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.cuny.edu/academics/initiatives/pathways/about/archive/Pathways_brochure.pdf)). You can learn more about Pathways at ([www.cuny.edu/pathways](http://www.cuny.edu/pathways)) and ([www.csi.cuny.edu/pathways](http://www.csi.cuny.edu/pathways)).

Many hundreds of CUNY and CSI faculty have been developing the Pathways courses and curriculum with the goal of offering you a challenging, high-quality education. We look forward to making sure that you and all students are supported in every way possible as we begin the Pathways journey together.

Sincerely,

William J. Fritz, PhD  
*Interim President*