

## REFLECTIONS FROM MT. WACHUSETTS: Areas of Focus to building Early College Cohorts

### Guided Academic Pathways

As far as the EC pathways, we go by meta-majors mostly, but some of the pathways are a little more specific. Each of the partnering high schools have chosen slightly different options for students. For example, at Fitchburg High, we have business, healthcare, liberal arts/sciences, and education. We have a huge interest in bringing in a computer science pathways at all of the schools, so I think FSU is trying to run an intro to programming course this summer to see what kind of interest it brings.

### Early College Programming

In terms of the early college programming with students, advisors run a College Success Strategies seminar once a week with our students. This is something that is constantly evolving based on student need, but they cover everything from more practical skills like study habits and tutoring, to soft skills and career exploration, knowledge about the transfer process, how to reach out to an instructor, proper email etiquette. Now that we have dedicated advisors at LHS and FHS, we are working to incorporate this piece there for the coming year. The high school counselors would be able to speak more to the freshman/sophomore exploration piece as well.

### Partnership Meetings

We have a larger meeting with the entire team once a quarter, but we have regular planning meetings with each of the schools at least once every month. Right now, during recruitment season, we are meeting with them even more frequently in order to review transcripts and determine who is taking dual enrollment courses for fall. We also do a separate meeting with just FSU to discuss more of the higher ed side of early college, typically once a quarter.