

Case Study – Exiting PCC

Selecting an Education Plan

During her first semester at PCC, Mariana heard from one of her classmates that it was important to visit an academic counselor to develop an education plan that would map out the courses needed to complete her academic goal. Thinking it might be a waste of time to go in there before she was sure about her major, Mariana decided to wait a little while and try to figure out her major and career goals on her own. She asked her friends about their majors and started doing some research on her own about jobs in computers since she was pretty sure that was the area she was interested in. She had taken a class in coding in high school and loved it and thought it would be fun to work in the field of technology. However, she heard from another friend that not having an Ed plan could impact her ability to receive financial aid, which she was dependent upon, and her priority registration. Therefore, she decided to visit a counselor in week 10 of her second semester. Because she had been taking mostly English and Math and a few general education courses, she found out that all the courses she had taken counted toward a degree, certificate or transfer. Wheww! This was a big relief! After talking briefly to the counselor about her future goals, they decided together to map out an Ed plan that would allow her to transfer to UCI through the Transfer Agreement Guarantee (TAG) program. Several weeks later, Mariana was speaking to one of the classmates in a math class and she shared that she had developed a different plan that would lead to graduating with an Associate Degree from PCC in a shorter time and she could earn a certificate along the way. Now Mariana is not sure which plan to follow.

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With your partner, consider the following questions about the two Ed plans that Mariana has seen. The point of this exercise is not to select one plan over another, but to understand what factors are involved in deciding on an education plan.

1. What does Mariana need to know up front in order to succeed in either of the paths mapped out by the Ed plans?
2. Considering your role at PCC, what are some specific ways that you could support Mariana in achieving her educational goals?