

PRIMARY RESEARCH PLAN

Team: The Track Team



“Whether it’s dropping out, “stopping out,” or graduating, most students have no idea what lies ahead for them.” - Kyle

Problem

Many students struggle with matching interests and passions with an academic program and have little knowledge of the long-term consequences of their decisions.



The team was not simply concerned with tracking the requirements and steps to graduate. As Kyle observed “America is in demand for a more knowledge-based workforce. While more and more people are receiving college degrees or at least attending some form of secondary education, employers are finding these individuals no more competent than the high school graduate.”



Objective

Determine how students track their progress through their secondary education; determine how they articulate their skills and competencies

To this team, “tracking progress” referred to tracking the value that your decisions and experiences add to your education. The problem they were looking at was not only concerned with getting an education but understanding how that education can be leveraged toward future success.

Research Methods

Student Interviews

- Prospective students (transfer or returning)
- Current students (Traditional, transfer, returned, or older)
- Graduating Seniors
- Recently graduated USU Alumni

“We form these unrealistic goals about what we want to be. While these are often very worthwhile jobs, there are so many more out there that we never hear about. So when students are asked what they would like to be, they generally are clueless to what even exists and what it takes to get there.” - Chanae W.

Additional Primary Research

Observation

- Advising Sessions
- Recently admitted student orientation

They were concerned about the little foresight that students employed in deciding to pursue their perspective majors and how this major was going to get them to their ultimate goal. The team wanted to explore the current understandings students have of the progress they felt they were making in their education and how they planned to use it to reach their goals.