What is a SENSE special-focus module?

Colleges have the option to add up to two special-focus modules of 12 items each using a custom special-focus module or choosing from the Center’s collection of standard special-focus modules for an additional fee:

- Academic Advising and Planning
- Building Relationships
- Commitment and Support
- Early Self-Reported Outcomes
- Financial Assistance
- Guided Pathways
- Promising Practices for Community College Student Success
- Student Success Courses
- The Working Learner

Frequently, the Center offers a specific special-focus module free of charge, as part of an initiative exploring a topic of interest to the community college field. This free module is provided to all colleges administering SENSE that do not add items of their own choosing. Students are asked to mark their responses under “Additional Items” at the end of the survey. The results from these items are provided as frequency distributions with colleges’ standard SENSE reports.

2020’s Guided Pathways items

Colleges participating in SENSE 2020 that do not add items of their own choosing will receive 12 items about Guided Pathways (shown below). These items are designed to help your institution gauge students’ early pathways-related experiences.

Mark only one response for each item

1. Did you require to meet (in person or online) with an academic advisor before registering for classes this academic term at this college?
   a. Yes
   b. No

2. During this academic term at this college, how many times have you met (in person or online) with an academic advisor?
   a. None
   b. 1 time
   c. 2 times
   d. More than 2 times
3. Prior to registering for classes your first academic term at this college, had you decided on a job or career that you wanted to pursue?
   a. Yes
   b. I am not attending this college to pursue a job or career
   c. No

4. Did a staff member at this college help you decide on a program, major, or pathway of study?
   a. Yes
   b. I had already decided on a program, major, or pathway of study on my own
   c. I talked with a college staff member about possible programs, majors, and pathways of study, but I have not decided on one
   d. No

5. Has a staff member at this college talked with you about the types of jobs your program, major, or pathway of study might lead to?
   a. Yes
   b. I have not decided on a program, major, or pathway of study
   c. No

6. Have you used this college’s website to explore career options?
   a. Yes
   b. My college does not have career options on its website that I know about
   c. No

7. Has a staff member at this college talked with you about how long it will take to complete your certificate or degree?
   a. Yes
   b. I plan to transfer without completing a certificate or degree
   c. I am not seeking a certificate or degree
   d. No

8. Has a staff member at this college talked with you about the total cost to complete your certificate or degree?
   a. Yes
   b. I plan to transfer without completing a certificate or degree
   c. I am not seeking a certificate or degree
   d. No

9. Has a staff member at this college talked with you about which credits will transfer toward your intended program or major at the four-year institution of your choice?
   a. Yes
   b. I am not planning to transfer
   c. I plan to transfer, but have not chosen a four-year institution
   d. I have not decided on a program, major, or pathway of study at this college
   e. No
10. Has a staff member at this college talked with you about the overall process for transferring to a four-year institution (application, financial aid)?
   a. Yes
   b. I am not planning to transfer
   c. No

11. At this college, are you required to follow an academic plan that specifies which courses you are required to take?
   a. Yes
   b. I do not have an academic plan
   c. No

12. If you were interested in changing your program, major, or pathway of study at this college, do you know how to go about doing this?
   a. Yes
   b. I am not sure
   c. No