

PATHS Program **FACT SHEET**

About the Program



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About the University of the District of Columbia

The University of the District of Columbia, the State University, is the only urban land grant institution in the United States. The UDC land grant mission focuses its activities on improving the quality of life for the residents of the District of Columbia. UDC is conveniently located on the red line at the Van Ness Metro station.

Paving Access Trails for Higher Security (PATHS) is a training and educational program developed for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) customers by the D.C. Department of Human Services/Income Maintenance Administration (DHS/IMA) in partnership with the University of the District of Columbia (UDC)/School of Business and Public Administration.

The PATHS Workplace and Family Literacy Program is designed to emphasize key competencies that TANF customers must demonstrate in order to achieve self-sufficiency. These key competencies include satisfactorily performing workplace duties, achieving academic goals, and meeting family needs and responsibilities. PATHS' person-centered case management helps customers identify barriers and determine methods of overcoming them while working collaboratively with internal and external partners to provide a full array of supportive services and training.

The PATHS program offers students a unique, sixteen week job skills experience -- eight weeks of intensive instruction in workplace-oriented math and English followed by an eight week career-specific internship program. The PATHS program emphasizes job skill development areas that are projected to experience the greatest increase in job growth in the D.C. metropolitan area (according to *BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook*). Upon completion of the PATHS program, students are eligible to apply for scholarships that can be used for GED, college, or continuing education classes at UDC.

In keeping pace with the best practices in welfare-to-work initiatives and findings from wage and job progression studies, an integrated, competency-based curriculum forms the core of the PATHS program. Key components of the program are:

- Workplace literacy/contextualized learning that strengthens workplace English and math skills
- Assessments – Literacy and Career
- Internships
- Family literacy and life enrichment instruction
- Job Placement
- Introduction to Personal Computers (PC)
- Mentoring and Support

Job Skill Development

- Certified Nursing Assistants
- Home Health Aide
- Hospitality
- Laborer Apprentice for Construction
- Office Assistants
- Medical Office Specialist
- Medical Billing and Coding
- Environmental Services Training
- Culinary Arts
- Bookkeeping using QuickBooks
- Child Care Assistant

Family Literacy/Life Enrichment Tools*

- Building Self-esteem
- Work Ethics
- Family Health
- Stress Management
- Budgeting/Financial Literacy
- Time Management
- Parenting Skills
- Effective Problem Solving
- Promotion of Community and School Involvement

*These are examples from an array of workshops/activities.

Mentoring and Support Services

- Extensive Person Centric Case Management
- Child Care Placements *
- Coaching on Individual Responsibility Plan (IRP)
- Financial Aid Advising
- Career Days
- Community Referral
- Academic Counseling
- Professional Development
- Employment Preparation

Contextualized Learning

- Apply reading and math skills to workplace settings
- Develop critical thinking and problem solving skills using workplace examples
- Provide workplace-oriented computer-aided instruction

Career Assessment/Internships

- Tests of Adult Basic Education (TABE)
- Career specific internships
- Career planning
- Individual development plans
- Campbell Interest and Skill Survey (CISS)

Scholarships

- PATHS

