

HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY AND PROCESS SUPPORT



Helping Colleges and Universities Reach Their Student Success Goals

Founded in 2017, The Ada Center helps college leaders navigate technology and business process decisions in an increasingly complex environment. Today, hundreds of new software tools promise a more personalized, smarter education experience. But for many colleges, navigating this new sea of vendors and jargon—finding the right software solution, setting an implementation up for success, creating an integrated student experience, and engaging faculty and staff—can be daunting. The Ada Center combines software and higher education expertise to support colleges in planning for and making the most of their technology investments.

What We Believe

Technology is not a silver bullet for any problem, but with the right planning and implementation, software can play an important role in advancing student success and equity.

We've seen institutions dramatically increase retention and completion by using case management systems and student planning tools. We've also seen institutions sink hundreds of thousands of dollars—to say nothing of staff time—into software that is not integrated with processes and people, detracting from institution goals. The Ada Center's mission is to help more institutions look like the former and avoid the latter. To do so, we work directly with college leaders and national networks that support them. Here are some of the ways we can support your institution:

- Helping your institution prioritize and strengthen software initiatives, recommending specific technology and process investments likely to make the greatest impact on student outcomes.
- Creating an implementation and training strategy for a guided pathways technology roll-out.
- Mapping your technology ecosystem and communication flow, detecting addressable pain points in the student and staff experience.
- Consulting on software vendor selection, including RFP processes and integration planning.
- Building faculty, staff, and student utilization of a software tool.

To learn more about how we support institutions, read about our engagement model on the following page. You can also explore our open-access resources at theadacenter.org.

Guided Pathways Technology Opportunity Assessment

The Ada Center supports a range of community colleges and access-focused universities committed to improving student outcomes through the use of technology. The Ada Center's support begins with something we call a "Guided Pathways Technology Opportunity Assessment." Over a short period, The Ada Center examines your institution's current use of software and associated processes, making specific recommendations about how your institution can better leverage software tools to strengthen student outcomes. We'll also help you chart a path for executing on these recommendations. Deliverables from the assessment include:



Comprehensive analysis of your major software tools and associated business processes drawn from research conversations with faculty and staff, along with background research.



Formal presentation and 15-20 page report on your institution's technology-related strengths and opportunity areas, including prioritization of software functionality that would be most impactful at your institution.



Facilitated technology action planning with leadership team to help your institution advance the recommendations of the opportunity assessment.



Opportunity for in-depth questions about how peers have approached specific software implementations, experiences with vendors, and integration questions.

The Ada Center conducts Guided Pathways Technology Opportunity Assessments with cohorts of institutions in the winter, spring and fall. The cost to engage with The Ada Center to conduct an assessment over a 1.5 - 3 month period is \$8,000 - \$12,500, with exact pricing derived from an institution's specific support needs. For institutions that are looking for additional support following a Technology Opportunity Assessment, The Ada Center works with your institution to develop a custom scope of work. The Ada Center may also partner with Phase Two Advisory, NCII, SOVA, WestEd, AACC Pathways Coaches, and Achieving the Dream to ensure you have the expertise you need to advance your guided pathways efforts.

Other Ways to Connect

In addition to The Ada Center's work with individual institutions, we support a number of national and state initiatives including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Frontier Set, Achieving the Dream, AACC Pathways, the State Student Success Centers, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, NCII, and others. Through these efforts we conduct practical research for the field, develop open-access materials on navigating today's emerging software landscape, conduct interactive regional and state workshops on technology planning, and disseminate lessons learned on software implementations. If you're interested in learning more about how you can connect with The Ada Center, please reach out to Sarah Zauner, Executive Director, at sarah@theadacenter.org.