

Academic Resources

The degree curriculum at Pathways College is developed so that all information that needs to be retrieved is provided by the course professor and can be accessed from journals, databases, books, research repositories, or the College's online library. Every resource provided for the classes are e-learning in format and accessible by any student with internet capabilities. Online resources are clearly labeled for student access and is consistently updated to ensure that they are current. The utilization of online resources enhances the learning experience for all students and alleviates some costs associated with those of brick-and-mortar facilities. Access to materials needed will be available through the student portal and the College's online library. Course instructors and the College's librarian are available for assistance.

Pathways College Library

The College maintains the Pathways College Library (library.pathwayscollege.org) which is available to students 24/7 and provides access to full-text resources, online research tutorials, subject research guides, citation help, and one-on-one research help from the College librarian via chat, IM, and email. The College's library is designed for students completing their work in an online environment and offers inclusive resources and services to assist students with all of their research needs. Students have access to full-text academic resources including journals, magazines, newspapers, and a library of e-books through the library's database subscriptions. Faculty are encouraged to work with the library to help deliver specialized research sessions in their courses in order to familiarize students with the research tools and resources available to them.

The library currently subscribes to ProQuest Research Library (ProQuest), and Ebook Central (ProQuest). Combined these databases provide students access to over 5,000 full-text publication titles, over 3,000 peer-reviewed publication titles, and over 200,000 books. The library also participates in resource trials to test the usability and quality of new potential resources to add to the library's collection. All resources have been reviewed by the College librarian and administration and selected for their support of the programs and the learning objectives of the Business Administration and Liberal Arts programs at Pathways College.

In addition to Pathways College's subscription databases, the college also stresses the use of open educational resources (OER) throughout its courses as a way to reduce course cost and increase access for students. Open resources have the potential to spur pedagogical innovation, introducing new alternatives for effective teaching. These learning resources can be modified and reused promote collaboration and participation—two key elements of a Web 2.0 approach to teaching and learning. The resources required to develop high-quality learning materials and activities for a full complement of courses can be prohibitive for many institutions and instructors. By distributing the costs over a larger number of users, OER brings a greater range of tools within reach of more users. OER can also lower the costs for students to obtain educational content. OER and online or hybrid learning are natural partners in efforts that take advantage of—and prompt—developments in educational technology that facilitate new media, new formats, and new means of distribution. The library helps supports Pathways College faculty by providing tools to research OER, and assistance with locating OER and other resources to support Pathways courses.