Figure 1. Sample Guided Pathway with Signature Work

Preparing students to do signature work will require thoughtful redesign of curricular pathways. This example of a general education pathway is rich with problem-based learning. It can be integrated with any well-designed major. Students taking this pathway would develop core intellectual skills and knowledge through exploration of big questions, and they would be required to apply their learning in their own Signature Work. A version of this figure originally appeared in The LEAP Challenge: Education for a World of Unscripted Problems, published in 2015 by AAC&U.

EPORTFOLIO SHOWS STUDENTS’ PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING AND PROFICIENCIES OVER TIME

FIRST-YEAR INQUIRY and COLLEGE WRITING

CREATIVE & ARTISTIC INQUIRY

CROSS-CULTURAL and GLOBAL STUDIES

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

SOCIO- ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Science explorations

Cross-disciplinary questions and student signature project

FIRST- OR SECOND-YEAR SEMINAR

Political theory course

Government internship

Research methods course

SENIOR CAPSTONE Team-based project working with local government agency

EXAMPLE: Environmental Sustainability Pathway (STEM Field)

FIRST- OR SECOND-YEAR SEMINAR

Environmental science

Environmental sustainability course

Summer internship with environmentally focused nonprofit

Course on fuel

SENIOR CAPSTONE Creation of local fuel station and strategy to recycle reclaimed cooking oil into biodiesel

EXAMPLE: Local Government Pathway (Public Policy)

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PATHWAY EXAMPLE 2

PATHWAY EXAMPLE 1

THEMATIC COURSE CLUSTERS

Three or more courses across multiple disciplines, including the major field. A student examines questions important to him/her and to society.

THEMATIC COURSE 1

THEMATIC COURSE 2

THEMATIC COURSE 3

SIGNATURE WORK

A student’s best work, which can take many forms (e.g., capstone; internship; field work; research; community-based research).

SECOND-YEAR INQUIRY SEMINAR

Cross-disciplinary questions and student signature project

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SOCIO- ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

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