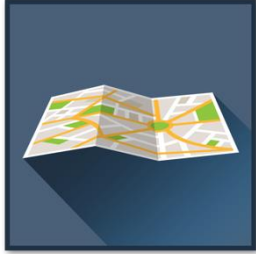


Cartography



Any successful journey requires a map. You may not know exactly what to expect, or what discoveries you will make along the way, but a clear map allows you to stay on track towards your ultimate destination. In college, you risk getting significantly off course if your map does not contain information about your required classes and how you will be paying for those classes. “Cartography” is the art and science of map making, and this week, you will engage in some map making of your own as you plan out the contours of your academic and finance plan.

Your PASSport requires that you complete two worksheets: Graduation Road Map and College Financial Planning Worksheet. Completing these two worksheets will give you a clear picture of your degree program, timeline to graduation, and how you will need to manage your finances in order to complete your degree. For example, many learners do not realize that there is a limit to the amount of federal student loans they can take, and some run out of loan money (reach their “aggregate limit”) while they still have classes remaining for their degree. But the information you need to see if you will have enough funds for your degree is readily available through a few websites and government databases. Completing the Graduation Road Map and College Financial Planning Worksheet will put you in control of your degree planning. When you have a clear map, what seems like a daunting journey becomes one that is both accessible and exciting.



Our reading in *Success as an Online Student* will provide additional insight into how to avoid common pitfalls in the online learning environment. The Navigating Challenges presentation is an interactive activity that allows you to “choose your own adventure” through a series of real-life scenarios

experienced by actual students at this university. Reflecting on the challenges and pondering possible solutions will be of help if and when you experience your own unique challenges.

This week we will complete the final chapters in *Uncommon Gratitude*. The spiritual realities and truth presented in this book can also be an encouragement and support as you navigate the real challenges of learning and growing through a college education. You will have the opportunity to offer final reflections on this book in the discussion forum, reflective journal entry, and final PASSport Essay #3 (due in Week 8).

Your final PASSport project will provide you with a comprehensive map and plan for success at this university. This week, we continue our work in making maps!