

Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary
“College to Career” (C2C)
Catawba College
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Catawba College has chosen career awareness as the topic for its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Catawba College’s mission statement articulates our commitment to providing students an education rich in personal attention that blends the knowledge and competencies of liberal studies with career preparation. In conjunction with our mission, the QEP will improve the career awareness of students to more effectively prepare them to pursue graduate studies or to enter the workforce.

We recognize that our world is constantly changing; our graduates must be prepared to tackle the workplace demands of the 21st century. Therefore, it is critical for our students to identify the career-specific skills that will enable and empower them to secure and retain the best jobs in their field. As an approach to improving the career awareness of students at Catawba College, the QEP committee developed a program identified as Catawba to Career (C2C). As an institution grounded in the tradition of liberal education, we place a high value on our students exploring, understanding, and applying a broad range of knowledge. As we blend the knowledge and competencies of liberal studies with career preparation, we recognize that students must embrace a major area of study fairly early in their college career in order to be eligible to graduate within four years. C2C should equip students with information they need to make informed decisions about how their aptitudes and values align with specific career paths.

C2C will be available to all sophomores and required of sophomores with GPAs in the lowest 30th percentile. For the purpose of the QEP, we will define sophomores as students in our traditional day program who have achieved sophomore status (i.e., 30-59 credit hours). While first-year students have extended access to advising through the First-Year Seminar experience, sophomores do not currently have such a program in place. The second year at Catawba College would also be an ideal time for exposure to career awareness and vocational goals while it is still early enough in a student’s college career to adjust course choices and internship acquisition. The intent of C2C is to complement the existing career services program that primarily focuses on students during their junior and senior year.

The first learning outcome (i.e., Students will be able to identify their strengths, weaknesses, and experiences in relation to a future career goal.) will be achieved through participation in a computer-assisted career guidance system (CACGS) as well as personal career awareness advising. The CACGS will help students identify and learn about their strengths, weaknesses, and experiences and how these attributes apply to future career goals.

The second learning outcome (i.e., Students will be able to identify the skills they need to acquire that will support future career choices.) will be accomplished through the creation of a career awareness transitional résumé (CAT-R) that will help students become aware of the skills and experiences they must develop to be prepared for their desired career.

The College faculty, staff, trustees, and administration believe that students will be much better prepared to select and pursue a career path that suits their strengths and interests with the types of learning experiences identified in the QEP.