

“Going PLACES: Planning Life, Academic & Career Education Strategies”

Carteret Community College
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Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

Carteret Community College has identified ***Going PLACES: Planning Life, Academic, & Career Education Strategies*** as the topic for the College’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Carteret’s QEP represents its response to institutional needs that were identified through careful analysis of institutional data and with broad-based input from College stakeholders. ***Going PLACES*** addresses student need for expanded support as students begin college and progress through their academic careers.

Extensive research in institutional data by a representative QEP Development Team indicated that students who completed a Success & Study Skills course early in their college careers had higher overall success rates than students who did not complete the course. The team also comprehensively researched academic advising, freshmen seminars and experience, student use of resources, Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL), national organizations, and community colleges that exemplified best practices in first year advising and experiences. The QEP Team involved the college community at several points during topic selection and development, including a vote on the Institution Level Learning Outcome on which the QEP should focus - students’ personal growth and responsibility. The team asked the College community respond to white papers to determine which would become the QEP. Finally, the team involved the college community in interactive learning about the QEP. Development activities led to the formulation of the QEP purpose:

Through course-centered academic advising, ***Going PLACES*** will improve student learning and the learning environment by giving students the skills, knowledge, and attitudes they need to create and execute a successful life plan.

Carteret Community College’s QEP has four college-level learning outcomes, meaning that these broad outcomes encompass all of the learning outcomes for ***Going PLACES***.

- CLLO1. Students demonstrate an understanding of campus resources and support services.
- CLLO2. Students show mastery of basic academic skills.
- CLLO3. Students demonstrate self-awareness.
- CLLO4. Students use critical thinking skills through problem solving.

These will be achieved through a redesigned Success & Study Skills class for first-year students that encompasses the broad principles of academic advising, and that incorporates a process-oriented guided-inquiry learning methodology (POGIL) to develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills. The redesigned Success & Study Skills classes will be taught as a series of Learning Modules involving several departments at the College in partnership with class faculty facilitators. The QEP Team developed a detailed timeline from the pilot year (2009-2010) through 2014 that incorporates outfitting a dedicated classroom with appropriate furniture and technology, staff development in POGIL, advising, learning styles, and software, and formative assessment. Comprehensive assessment will include collection and analysis of numerous data sets. Annual reports by the QEP Implementation Team will provide highlighted overviews of what is working well and what has been accomplished as well as pinpoint areas needing improvement. Progress in achieving QEP objectives will be reported to all constituent groups. A summative evaluation of the QEP’s overall impact on the institution’s learning environment and the quality of its students’ learning that is based on both quantitative and qualitative data will be included in a final report for the Commission on Colleges.