



The Core Scholar Program at Eastern Florida State College

Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) is committed to producing successful graduates who have the skills necessary to excel as they advance their education or enter the workforce. The **Core Scholar** concept emerged with input from students, faculty, staff, alumni and community partners. After extensive research and analysis, the faculty-led QEP Steering Committee identified that enhancement of Basic Skills (**self-efficacy, motivation, self-discipline, and engagement**) is most important to our constituents, relevant to all disciplines, and will lead to improved student learning. The overall goal of the **Core Scholar Program** is to improve student learning by equipping our students with essential skills needed for success in college and the workplace. The program outcomes we planned based on these are:

1. Core Scholars possess self-efficacy.
2. Core Scholars demonstrate motivation.
3. Core Scholars apply self-discipline.
4. Core Scholars engage with faculty, other students, and college resources.

An extensive review of the literature conducted by faculty revealed that engaging students in **peer tutoring, success coaching, soft skills workshops, and online learning communities** are the most compelling strategies to improve these basic skills. Many of these strategies are already in place at the college in some form. The Core Scholar Program aims to supplement our existing efforts with new initiatives designed to improve student learning as a part of a cohesive program.

Strategy Outcomes for the **Core Scholar Program** include the following:

- Improve student success in gateway courses through increased peer tutoring
- Use college services and resources to overcome obstacles
- Develop soft skills essential to academic success
- Examine career options to identify a major area of interest

Direct and indirect assessments will be used within qualitative and quantitative frameworks to measure success. All four strategies will be available to any student, but **Core Scholars** will be required to participate in each area. A **Core Scholar** will be required to attend tutoring in a course (or be a tutor), attend a set number of workshops each academic year, attend sessions with a success coach over at least two semesters, and participate in (or be a moderator in) a major area of interest learning community. All students are welcome to attend individual components or become **Core Scholars**, but we will track our FTIC (First-Time-in-College) students for our required data, comparing those who complete the program with those who do not.

The **Core Scholar Program** fosters student learning as an interconnected program focused on our students' specific needs and is directly linked to the College's mission and goals, demonstrating that Eastern Florida is dedicated to enhancing academic excellence.

For information on The **Core Scholar Program** at Eastern Florida State College, contact Dr. Ramona Smith, QEP Director and Associate Professor of Biology: smithr@easternflorida.edu or (321) 433-5292.

