

The Guided Plan for Success (GPS) Horry-Georgetown Technical College

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The focus of the Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) Quality Enhancement Plan is the “Guided Plan for Success” initiative. The purpose is to enhance student learning through opportunities for academic success by improving orientation and advising. This initiative was selected after it became apparent that students were lacking a clear sense of direction in their academic and career planning. Through the *Guided Plan for Success* (GPS), more students will achieve more of their personal academic and career goals through support in defining their goals, identifying and addressing barriers to goal attainment, and realizing the importance of personal responsibility in seeing goals through to fruition.

The *Guided Plan for Success* is a student-focused, student-learning centered initiative that grew from institutional research and direct student input revealing the need and desire for more involved academic advising and ongoing support for students throughout enrollment and learning cycles at HGTC. Specifically, students expressed their desire—and data supports the need for—more proactive, goal-oriented advising during the new student intake process, and more visible, available academic advising and support services. In response to student needs and the desire for positive learning outcomes, the *Guided Plan for Success* addresses a broad cross-section of processes and services, including: new and returning student intake and advising, orientation and engagement, academic advising and support services, and career readiness. Elements to be incorporated in the *Guided Plan for Success* include a student-directed academic planning system, whereby students define and outline the steps to achieving their academic and career goals; a redefined new student orientation and new college success skills workshops; expanded tutoring services for students identified as “at-risk” due to low rates of goal attainment; and workshops to equip students for academic and personal success.

Three specific Student Learning Outcomes have been identified for the *Guided Plan for Success*. 1) Students will develop personal academic plans in order to effectively pursue educational goals. 2) Students will seek and utilize appropriate support services to address self-identified academic challenges. 3) Students will apply their personal academic plans in order to achieve their educational goals.

To measure student learning, the College will gauge progress in a number of areas through both direct and indirect measures against baseline data at various points throughout the QEP implementation including, but not limited to: Increased graduation rates, reduced course failure and withdrawal rates; increased utilization and student self-referral for academic and other support services; increased student goal attainment rates; and greater student satisfaction with all services provided. Concisely stated, the *Guided Plan for Success* is focused on student direction and student success.

Implementation for the *Guided Plan for Success* will follow a five-year timeline. For each year of implementation, including a planning year, specific initiatives and assessment measures have been identified. The implementation timeline includes regular review of progress toward achievement of objectives, allowing for adjustments to the plan’s components as part of the overall institutional planning process.

Horry-Georgetown Technical College strongly supports the *Guided Plan for Success* QEP initiative and will provide all means necessary towards a successful long-term implementation of this plan.