



## PREPARING STUDENTS TO LEARN ONLINE: ARE YOU READY?

### Executive Summary

In support of the **Mayland Community College (MCC)** mission to be the educational gateway to opportunity in Mitchell, Avery, and Yancey counties, the College has developed and is championing the ***Preparing Students to Learn Online: Are You Ready?*** Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Derived through an extensive evolutionary institutional analysis and design process, the QEP represents MCC's commitment to ensure that students are prepared to succeed in 100% online course offerings. The Plan also provides for faculty development and College readiness to support online education.

Students seeking to take 100% online classes will first complete an online orientation consisting of the **SmarterMeasure** readiness instrument and an orientation module that serves as an "*Introduction to Online Learning*." The orientation will assess student preparedness for online learning while advancing the personal and technical capabilities for students of all readiness levels. Furthermore, students who are identified as being *Low Ready* for online classes will take ACA 085 (Improving Study Skills) to bolster the academic, personal, and technical skills needed to meet the demands of online learning. MCC will also enact several student success support actions including an online course requirements Web resource, advisor training, and an Internet class orientation guidelines framework.

Mayland Community College's QEP provides foundational support for student preparedness and student learning through faculty professional development. To ensure that faculty members are ready to offer quality online instruction, a three-tiered development program will be established to certify online faculty with training in andragogy, Learning Management System (LMS) fundamentals, course design, and Quality Matters principles. A Quality Matters-based self-assessment and peer review program will be developed to provide online course certification.

Additionally, the Quality Enhancement Plan encompasses several actions that promote College readiness to support online learning. Through personnel appointment, assessment development, and student readiness tracking procedures, the institution will ensure that the online learning environment advances student achievement.

Through these actions, MCC's QEP will, therefore, create a framework to achieve **three program outcomes**:

- 1) Increase student success rates in 100% online courses beyond baseline by 5%
- 2) Increase student retention rates in 100% online courses beyond baseline by 4%
- 3) Increase student satisfaction rates with 100% online courses beyond baseline

In order to realize these program outcomes, the following **student learning outcomes** are interwoven throughout the MCC Quality Enhancement Plan:

- Students will be able to identify the characteristics of a successful online learner
- Students will be able to demonstrate the appropriate technical skills needed for online success
- Students will be able to apply personal readiness techniques to improve performance in online classes
- Students will be able to utilize appropriate academic resources to improve access to and performance in online classes

Mayland Community College will, therefore, implement, assess, and adjust the QEP over a five-year period in order to promote student learning success in online classes and to ensure that online classes meet the highest standards of quality.



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