

Nashville State Community College Quality Enhancement Plan

“Improving Student Success through the First Year Experience”

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Executive Summary:

The Nashville State Community College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focuses on improving student success through first year experiences, encompassing the following activities: New Student Orientation, a First Year Experience course, academic advising, career planning, and personal reflection on education on the part of the student. Student learning outcomes for the QEP are as follows:

As a result of their first year experience, students at Nashville State will:

1. Create a personalized academic plan that includes college-level math, English composition, and 9 hours in the focus area in the first academic year.
2. Describe connections between degree choice and ultimate career choice after an interest inventory (Kuder).
3. Differentiate resources available to students through Nashville State to support student success.
4. Articulate connections between their courses and their ultimate academic goals.
5. Reflect on their personal growth as a result of their education.

In order to monitor the success of Nashville State’s QEP over time, baseline data were generated for several student success measures, including CCSSE values, student persistence, retention rates, and graduation rates. Baseline data were used to determine benchmark indicators of success over the time of QEP implementation.

CCSSE benchmarks were scaled to hit average cohort college scores (as presented in 2017) by year two and then to supersede those scores in the remaining years of QEP implementation. The one exception is in full-time student scores for student effort, for which Nashville State outperformed the cohort score in 2017. That value is simply set to increase by one point each year.

Benchmarks of success for the other student success measures were determined using incremental increases over time to move performance in line with those values representing the 90th percentile institutions in the 2016 National Community College Benchmark Project (NCCBP) report. An incremental increase of 1.5% per year was used in those categories for which NCCBP data were unavailable.

The Nashville State Community believes that the result of our QEP on improving student success through the first year experience will improve these student success measures as we reach the benchmarks each year of our QEP.