

Title of the QEP: MAPS: Mentoring, Advising, and Planning for Success
Institution: Northeast Alabama Community College
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Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) seeks to increase student learning by assisting students in the development and management of their academic and career goals. NACC's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) seeks to unify and integrate the advising components that already exist and add additional components to establish a more comprehensive advising model. The QEP moves NACC from the use of a prescriptive advising model to a developmental advising model that focuses on advising as teaching.

NACC is committed to a multilevel advising system to develop self-regulated learners by which academic advisors build relationships of trust and guidance that empower students to achieve their personal, academic, and career goals. This advising mission statement is based on the premise that students who are actively engaged in their education will be more successful throughout their educational careers and beyond. The name of the new advising process is MAPS: Mentoring, Advising, and Preparing for Success.

The QEP has established several goals and outcomes. First, the plan's student learning outcome is as follows: Students will understand how to develop and achieve academic and career goals. These skills will be taught throughout a student's tenure at NACC, and the outcome will be directly assessed using a questionnaire at the time of graduation. Additional goals of the new advising model call for improved student engagement as well as increased retention, graduation, transfer, and employment rates.

In order to address the student learning outcome and to meet the other goals of the QEP, the plan calls for the revision of several aspects of the college's advising process. The QEP establishes the position of Director of Advising to oversee the new MAPS program. Within the new program, the college is revising the content of its now mandatory freshman orientation sessions, and in an effort to make students more successful, the administration has updated the academic calendar as it pertains to registration and adding and withdrawing from courses. The college has also created an advisor handbook and an advising syllabus that will be used by each academic advisor.

The main focus of the new MAPS advising program is to improve the interactions that advisors have with students in order to teach students to take responsibility for setting and achieving their academic and career goals. Two newly implemented tools in this revised interaction are a multifaceted online advising guide that is managed through the Blackboard course management system and an appointment scheduling component through AdvisorTrac software. In order to improve interactions with advisees and to use the new tools, the college has implemented an intensive professional training program on the various components of advising.

By implementing the steps of the plan to achieve the stated goals, the MAPS advising process will better guide students in their educational and career planning and increase the students' opportunities for success beyond their time at NACC.