



Advising: Plan Now. Succeed Now.

Thomas Nelson Community College's 2016 Quality Enhancement Plan

Thomas Nelson Community College intends to improve student success by providing a deliberate and effective advising process that will better integrate efforts of both teaching faculty and professional advisors. To this end, the College has developed *Advising: Plan Now. Succeed Now.* as its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for its 2016 Reaffirmation of Accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. The topic was identified through a collaborative process that involved representative faculty, staff, and administrators from across the College.

A central tenet of *Advising: Plan Now. Succeed Now.* is the importance of placing students new to higher education in close proximity to faculty in the academic divisions of the College. Based on an emphasis on exploring students' career interests early in their time at the College, students will be assigned to professional advisors that are specific to their academic division. Faculty will be released from the administrative aspects of course scheduling, allowing these discipline experts to increasingly act as mentors to students.

The current advising system will be reorganized, with substantial new resources and positions added to those already in place. Students without specific career or program interests will work with a counselor who will engage them in career exploration until they are ready to be assigned to an academic division. Advising will be coordinated within each academic division by a lead professional advisor and overseen by the College's Director of Advising. Professional advisors will work most directly with students within each academic division. Participation in *Advising: Plan Now. Succeed Now.* will be mandatory for new-to-higher-education students. Key engagement points for those students will include new student orientation, student development courses, advising sessions prior to each semester, and ongoing faculty mentor relationships.

Teaching faculty at the College will serve as faculty mentors to students in their discipline. Faculty mentoring will be rooted in a supportive process that involves role-modeling, sharing of experience, and guidance in developing and refining academic, career, and personal goals for the student. In coordination with the lead professional advisors, faculty members will participate in student engagement activities, including conducting career presentations, assisting in career exploration, sponsoring discipline-related student organizations, and providing tutoring to students. Career services advisors will provide additional career planning and placement assistance.

As a result of their engagement in the new advising model, students will be able to articulate their academic and career goals, apply previously understood information to new situations, and make purposeful decisions regarding balance among education, work and personal life. These learning outcomes, as well as other indicators of the success of the plan, will be assessed regularly and used to inform improvements.

For additional information, please contact Crystal Anderson, Thomas Nelson's Director of Advising, at andersonc@tncc.edu or (757) 825-2810.