

ADVISING IN 3D: DREAM, DESIGN, DISCOVER

Vance-Granville Community College

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Advising in 3D, an initiative focused on student learning outcomes, is the title of Vance-Granville Community College's (VGCC) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The plan will strive to improve student academic success through an advising culture of student centered learning. After specialized advisor and instructor training, advising will be used to educate the student on goal setting and academic planning during the advising sessions and through ACA (study skills) courses. The QEP is designed to empower students to take responsibility for their academic and career goals. Best practices show and VGCC believes that this student learning initiative will result in students demonstrating improved academic success.

A 2008 Student Services Survey at VGCC showed dissatisfaction with academic advising. Students believed academic advising and career planning at VGCC were inadequate and they desired a greater understanding of their academic choices. VGCC faculty and staff believed students were not focused on reaching their goals. Low student retention and completion rates resulted from students' lack of direction and planning skills. Research and data collection started with the QEP Planning Committee which solicited ideas and proposed topics, and shifted to the QEP Committee which narrowed the topic and developed the plan details. The QEP resulted from the input and efforts of faculty, staff, and students representing the broadest range of College stakeholders. Existing practices, empirical data from campus assessments, and best practices served as a foundation for the development of the plan.

The QEP will guide VGCC as it changes its registration-based advising culture to a culture of educating students about planning and implementing their academic and career goals. The QEP title, "**Advising in 3D: Dream, Design, Discover,**" will provide advising in a methodical process using best-practices to change this culture. The College will begin the first year of the QEP with new at-risk students and expand to all students within the five year plan.

The QEP, Academic Advising and Career Planning, has three goals: students will 1) develop a relationship with an advisor, 2) know the steps to completion of their academic and career goals, and 3) become responsible, independent, and empowered for their education. The QEP provides the College with student learning outcomes that are directly informed by the College's Mission, Vision, Core Values, and Institutional Strategic Plan. Actions, organizational structure, resources, and a timeline needed to complete the plan were formulated to achieve the student learning outcomes. Formative and summative assessments to measure success of the QEP have been incorporated.