

Virginia Western Community College

Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary



Virginia Western's Quality Enhancement Plan *Navigate: Get THERE through Team Advising* fosters student success through improved academic planning skills. This action plan focuses on adopting a progressive advising approach to assist students in taking ownership of their academic success by developing the necessary skills to identify and achieve educational goals.

To support the overarching goal of fostering student success through improved academic planning skills Virginia Western identified three student learning outcomes; 1) to set an educational success goal; 2) to engage in academic planning to achieve one's educational success goal; and 3) to develop individual responsibility for one's academic success.

Virginia Western used the QEP development process as an opportunity to evaluate the advising process and potential barriers to student development and success. As a result, the College adopted a team advising approach that includes New Student Advisors, Faculty Advisors, and Program Advisors. To support the advising effort, substantive changes were made to the existing student orientation course (SDV) to include additional and standardized assignments related to goal setting and career exploration.

As students' progress through their educational journey different types of advising are necessary. To accommodate these evolving needs a team advising approach was adopted. Initially students meet with a New Student Advisor to engage in developmental advising discussions regarding their strengths, abilities, interests, and potential barriers to success. Once students are program placed, faculty advisors continue the progressive advising discussion as content area experts. Program Advisors, assigned to each academic school, serve as a support to students, by assisting those who are undecided, need to redefine their educational goals, or have questions regarding transfer agreements. Finally, Program Advisors support New Student and Faculty Advisors by serving as a bridge between student services and academics.

Navigate will be continually assessed over the next five years to evaluate its effectiveness/success. Quantitative measures such as retention and course completion rates, as well as qualitative measures, including focus groups and other feedback mechanisms, will identify any necessary adjustments needed in the plan.

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