



Title of QEP: Best Achievement Strategies for College

Institution: Wayland Baptist University

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Executive Summary of Wayland Baptist University's QEP

Wayland Baptist University developed its Quality Enhancement Plan, *BASC – Best Achievement Strategies for College*, to assist in meeting its mission and vision, “to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind” and to “be an environmentally responsible, international multi-campus system offering innovative, academically challenging, and distinctively Christian undergraduate and graduate education through multiple delivery systems to military and civilian students around the world.” A multi-year project, *BASC* will improve retention via a redesigned, system-wide university introductory course that requires both traditional and non-traditional students to focus on three key elements—development of a growth mindset, early identification of a specific major, and service learning.

With a program goal to *improve undergraduate persistence to a bachelor's degree*, the QEP Committee identified three specific strategies to help students achieve this goal within Wayland's introductory course, *Best Achievement Strategies for College*: 1) reduce elements of academic and social fear by developing and refining a growth mindset, 2) cultivate satisfaction and belonging through improved career counseling and advising, and 3) promote belonging and servant leaders through hands-on service-learning initiatives. These strategies emerged following a system-wide topic selection process that included in-depth review of institutional retention data, compilation of survey responses from students, faculty, staff, and administration, and a review of contemporary scholarship of best practices in retention. Three student learning outcomes guide curricular design:

1. Students will define growth mindset in relation to their personal goal of degree completion.
2. Students will identify one or two potential majors and connect them with their career goals.
3. Students will complete a service-learning component and reflect on its value in relation to their personal value-system and its connection with Wayland's mission and core values.

To prepare for full program implementation in fall 2018, the Committee established action plans for faculty/staff professional development, for course design and implementation, and for QEP program assessment strategies for face-to-face classes taught in both discipline-specific and undeclared sections, and for courses delivered through Wayland's hybrid and online platforms. Ancillary program components include the addition of a new Director for Student Success to coordinate the *BASC* program and the adoption of *Blackboard Predict* (system-wide predictive analytics to connect with academically and socially at-risk students).