



Orientation for Successful Careers and Academic Rewards (OSCAR)

Williamsburg Technical College (WTC) espouses the principle that student success stems from student connection and engagement with a college community which provides opportunities for collaborative learning and interaction with faculty in classrooms. This engagement of the two – faculty and students - promotes successful student outcomes.

WTC's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focuses on “***Orientation for Successful Careers and Academic Rewards***” (OSCAR). OSCAR is the result of a comprehensive collaborative process that has as its goal providing a target student population with the tools and resources necessary to succeed in college. The “target student” is defined as a first-semester, first-time student of Williamsburg Technical College who is enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program and who has not successfully completed a transferrable college skills course. This definition of a target student is based on focus group assessments and indicators that this population of students is least likely to succeed in college without adequate preparation, support, affirmation, and orientation.

Faculty and staff members serving on the QEP Team/Steering Committee have ensured broad-based involvement in the development and implementation of the QEP through their areas of expertise. As implementation proceeds, attention will be maintained on sustaining a broad-based commitment.

OSCAR focuses on three main components:

- Target students will complete an online orientation component to prepare them for advisement by familiarizing them in advance with college resources, expectations, and policies.
- Target students will be enrolled in the second OSCAR component, the College Skills 103 course, which will hone their technology literacy, goal setting skills, time management skills, appropriate classroom skills, and will identify and utilize those campus resources which can assist them in successfully pursuing their identified goals. This course will build a more solid foundation for student engagement as begun in the online orientation component.
- Training opportunities will be developed for faculty and staff to improve their abilities to enhance the success of target students. This third component will further solidify student engagement.

The QEP will utilize all the College's resources to measure student learning baseline data to gauge progress within defined areas at designated points throughout the QEP implementation. Therefore, the QEP is integrated by design into the College's institutional effectiveness planning, assessment, and evaluation model in order to further enhance the prospects for its successful implementation and sustainability. WTC faculty and staff strongly support OSCAR and will provide all means necessary to ensure a successful long-term implementation of this plan.

Contact: Dr. Earlene Walker-Kelly, Director of QEP, walkere@wiltech.edu