



Wytheville Community College QEP -- WCC4ME: Making Online Learning Click for First-year Students

Executive Summary WCC4ME

The mission statement of Wytheville Community College (WCC) states: "Wytheville Community College is committed to providing access to lifelong learning within an environment of academic excellence." As a part of this commitment WCC is increasingly providing access to students from the counties of Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth, and Wythe, and the City of Galax via distance learning. WCC has seen its percentage of enrollment in online courses increase from 30.4 % in the fall of 2009 to 47.1% in the spring of 2015. While the percentage of students enrolled strictly in the online environment has steadily increased, the pass rate for online students at WCC has remained approximately 85%, which is significantly below the pass rate for traditional courses.

The WCC QEP, *WCCOME: Making Online Learning Click for First-year Students*, has an overarching goal of increasing the overall pass rate of students who take online courses at WCC to the same percentage as the pass rate for WCC students enrolled in traditional face-to-face courses. To reach that goal, the WCC QEP will implement three direct interventions:

1. The SDV 100: College Success Skills course will be redesigned to include an Online Learning Readiness module to better prepare WCC first-time online learners for the online learning environment.
2. A three tiered professional development plan, centered on best practices in online instruction, will be implemented for all full-time and adjunct faculty.
3. Courses with the highest enrollment of first-time online learners will be identified and redesigned to implement best practices in online learning.

Through the implementation of the above three interventions, WCC4ME is aligned to support the following student outcomes:

1. WCC students will be able to identify the characteristics of a successful online learner.
2. WCC students will be able to identify their personal strengths for success in the online learning environment.
3. WCC students will be able to identify their personal weaknesses for success in the online learning environment.
4. WCC students will be able to identify a WCC Resource available to support any weakness identified as a barrier to their success in the online learning environment.
5. WCC first-time online learners will report a strong teaching presence in their online courses.
6. WCC first-time online learners will report a strong social presence in their online courses.
7. WCC first-time online learners will report a strong cognitive presence in their online courses.

Wytheville Community College will implement, assess, and continually improve the work of the QEP over the next five years working towards the goal of students being equally successful in online and traditionally delivered courses.

Contact Information

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