

Thrive: Cultivating Student Success through Intentional Mentoring  
East Texas Baptist University  
Executive Summary

As a Christ-centered institution, East Texas Baptist University educates students by integrating biblical faith and learning to develop mind, body, and soul through community engagement to prepare graduates to be Christian servant leaders in their calling to God and humanity. From this mission, the University has adopted the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) topic, Thrive: Cultivating Student Success through Intentional Mentoring.

In light of the University's commitment to the development of the whole student through engagement with community, the outcomes for the QEP are that ETBU undergraduate students would demonstrate growth in Engaged Learning, Academic Determination, Spirituality, Positive Perspective, Diverse Citizenship, Healthy Lifestyle, and Social Connectedness as measured by the Thriving Quotient. In addition, the QEP is intended to improve retention and four-year graduation rates for students. The QEP is focused on providing a community of mentors to undergraduate students in order to support them in growth and success in these identified areas.

Faculty, staff, and upperclassmen students will serve in a variety of mentoring roles for undergraduate students. A pilot group of students will receive personal mentors in the 2019-2020 academic year with all incoming new students (first-time freshmen and transfer students) offered the opportunity of a mentor beginning in the 2020-2021 academic year. Additionally, returning students will have the opportunity to participate in small groups, called Thrive Groups, with an assigned mentor for each academic year until all undergraduate students have the opportunity to participate in small group mentoring. Lastly, the entire University community will focus on creating conversations around the ideas of thriving as a college student and preparation for service in God's Kingdom.

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