



Wallace Community College Selma
Wallace Avenues to Your Success (W.A.Y.S.)
QEP Executive Summary

Wallace Community College Selma's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is titled Wallace Avenues to Your Success (W.A.Y.S.). This initiative was developed to improve retention, graduation, and transfer rates of freshmen students enrolled in transfer programs.

WCCS identified *Wallace Avenues to Your Success- Begin with the End in Mind* as its QEP, which provides students with focused opportunities in understanding their career options and choosing the right path. The goal is to begin with the end in mind by mapping educational paths for students that lead to increases in retention, graduation, and transfer rates.

To identify the QEP, a broad-based selection of campus constituents examined the college's Strategic Plan, institutional research data related to student success, and survey data from students, employers, faculty, and staff. Survey data revealed that many incoming freshmen lack direction about career choices and majors, which the college believes led to early departure. Based on reviews of student success data coupled with insight gained from surveys, the college believes that waning success in key performance indicators amongst transfer students was directly related to students not having a clear road map to career goals.

W.A.Y.S. is designed to address these issues by focusing on two goals:

- Goal 1: Improve Retention and completion in transfer programs
- Goal 2: Increase Transfer Rates

The student success outcomes for W.A.Y.S. are designed to help First-time freshmen (FTF) identify direction about their career choices and majors. Specifically, the outcomes include:

1. FTF will explore academic and career information based on their abilities, interest, and values and choose a career cluster by the end of the first semester.
2. FTF will choose and enter a major program pathway by the end of the second semester.
3. FTF will identify clear academic goals to establish realistic plans for academic success and transfer.
4. FTF will demonstrate awareness and use of institutional support resources and services.
5. FTF will achieve progress towards timely completion of academic goals to prepare them for transfer

To achieve these outcomes, WCCS has created an action plan focused in three main areas:

Choose a Path -WCCS will redesign the freshmen orientation course (ORI 101) to enhance student awareness of the importance of establishing career goals early in their academic journey. New Student Freshman Orientation (NSFO) is a program that will be required of all first-year and transfer students with a focus on helping students choose and enter a program pathway.

Get on the Path-WCCS will assign an advisor to meet students individually consistently throughout the semester with the purpose of helping students explore career and college options and focusing on choosing a specific major and a four-year college that fits their needs.

Stay on the Path- WCCS will assign advisors and coaches to monitor students' progress and provide support needed. Advisors will meet with students at strategic milestone markers.

For more information about W.A.Y.S., contact Maxine Sturdivant,
QEP Director, maxine.sturdivant@wccs.edu, 334-876-9331.