

***Civic Sense:
Engaging Students in the Civic Life of Their Communities
Piedmont Virginia Community College***

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PVCC's QEP topic selection and planning process included input from all constituencies and was informed by the literature review. This process demonstrated that higher education has a duty to teach students civic engagement knowledge, skills, and attitudes. The goal of PVCC's Quality Enhancement Plan is that graduates will be more likely to be civically engaged because of their experiences at PVCC. This QEP is an immersive experience with curricular and co-curricular opportunities. Curricular strategies to achieve this goal include, but are not limited to, implementing a voting module in the required student development course; completing information modules in College Composition I (English 111); integrating civic engagement assignments into College Composition II (English 112); and implementing a civic engagement course in each degree program. Co-curricular experiences include: the *PVCC Votes!* Initiatives; the One Book Program for Civic Engagement; the college-wide Service Project; and the community-wide Deliberative Dialogue.

The student learning outcomes for the *Civic Sense* QEP state that graduates will actively participate in civic life by voting in local, state, and federal elections; actively participate in civic life by engaging in public service or other activities that improve the condition of communities and/or the quality of people's lives; and evaluate multiple perspectives to think critically about issues of public consequence.

Civic Sense uses multiple formative and summative measures, including a cross-sectional assessment of student perception at the beginning of a student's experience and at graduation, as well as external third-party reporting; course-embedded assessments; and co-curricular feedback surveys. PVCC's QEP Implementation Committee will monitor assessment results and make necessary adjustments to implementation.