



Y.O.D.A.: Your Own Degree Advisor
River Parishes Community College

Executive Summary

River Parishes Community College's (RPCC) Quality Enhancement Plan, *Y.O.D.A.: Your Own Degree Advisor*, focuses on increasing retention, persistence, and completion through proactive advising at significant milestones in a student's college experience. These milestones are referred to in the Completion by Design (CbD) Framework as Connection, Entry, Progress, and Completion. *Y.O.D.A.* leverages the talent of advising teams consisting of professional staff orientation leaders and program-based advisors, many of which will be faculty members. Taking a longitudinal and proactive approach to advising students, RPCC will implement several new initiatives, including: a robust orientation for new students, program-based advisors, Degree Works software that allows students and advisors to track progress toward completion, and a course titled "College & Career Success Skills" (CCSS) for students who are academically at-risk. All of these initiatives are distinct departures from existing advising practices at RPCC.

Y.O.D.A. aligns with three of RPCC's core college mission initiatives: (1) enhance the quality of academic instruction through a continued focus on student learning outcomes; (2) create a campus culture that values teaching and learning and actively involves faculty in this process, and (3) identify, assess, and meet community needs to promote and increase open access to the College. These core initiatives also align with the Louisiana Community & Technical College System's *Our Louisiana 2020* Strategic Plan goals to: (1) double the number of graduates; (2) quadruple the number of student transfers to four-year universities; and (3) double the number of students served.

QEP Institutional Goals

- Goal 1: Assist students in identifying degree program requirements that lead to timely degree completion
- Goal 2: Implement a revised student onboarding process that will immediately engage students in a collaborative, proactive advising process that encourages degree selection and course registration
- Goal 3: Foster an environment in which advisor-advisee accountability enhances student retention

QEP Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

The QEP Institutional Goals listed above will be achieved utilizing the following SLOs. First-time freshman at RPCC will:

- Identify their degree plan requirements and monitor their progress toward timely degree completion. (Goal 1)
- Identify their preferred field of study and choose a major informed by their interest, skill and market demand. (Goal 2)
- Recognize the advisor-advisee process to include the roles and responsibilities of both advisors and advisees. (Goal 3)

A variety of assessment tools are being used to evaluate the QEP. The institutional goals will be assessed annually via: analysis of fall to fall and spring to spring retention rates; cohort graduation rates; CCSSE survey results; and SENSE survey results. In addition, two internally-developed instruments- the New Student Orientation (NSO) Survey and the Advising Questionnaire (AQ)- will measure achievement of the Student Learning Outcomes.

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