

# Tri-County Community College

## Go Figure: Solutions for Student Success

The title of the Tri-County Community College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is “Go Figure”: Solutions for Student Success. Its goal is “to improve first-year success in gatekeeper mathematics courses.”



The QEP committee was made up of an important cross-section of faculty, staff, and students. Faculty members represented the disciplines of Math, English, Accounting, Humanities, Psychology, and Sociology. Staff members represented the departments of advising, marketing, institutional effectiveness, institutional research, and administration. Additionally, a member of the Board of Trustees served on the committee and reported progress to the Board at each meeting.

“Go Figure” is a three-pronged approach to improve student success in gatekeeper mathematics courses:

### 1) Preparation for Success

When examining the current processes at the College, the Committee discovered a need to meet students where they were in relation to their placement test needs, rather than give a one-size-fits-all approach. In an effort to meet students and help alleviate anxiety around college mathematics, students are registered in the “Go Figure” Moodle course as soon as they enroll at Tri-County Community College. This course provides specific mathematics lessons and quizzes tailored to the student's identified comfort level to prepare for the placement test.

### 2) Advising for Success

With the creation of “Go Figure”, the Committee identified the need for a new advising structure for first-year students, and so created the Advising and Career Center (ACC). The idea driving the ACC is to meet with each new student and discuss admission questions, program of study information, as well as career and course advising. The staff of the ACC meets with new students in an individualized session, which allows time to cover specific needs and encourage students to enroll in their gatekeeper mathematics course within their first 30 academic hours. In addition, the staff will also assist students in identifying available academic support services. The one-on-one sessions ensure students leave confident and prepared for first year success.

### 3) Support for Success

Following a student taking their placement test and being advised in their program of study, the final phase of the “Go Figure” project is to effectively support students throughout their gatekeeper mathematics course. Initial support elements involve establishing a peer ambassador program in mathematics courses, providing support services for students with anxiety, making impactful adjustments to each gatekeeper mathematics course's curriculum, and providing comprehensive mathematics tutoring. Another recognized student support effort was the alteration of the gatekeeper mathematics courses' curriculum to provide real-world applications for concepts and scenarios that encourage critical thinking.

Although the primary focus of “Go Figure” centers on gatekeeper mathematics, the impact of this project has implications and applications that go well beyond the mathematics classroom. For more information, contact Roarke Arrowood, M.Ed., Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Advancement and SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison, at [rarrowood@tricitycc.edu](mailto:rarrowood@tricitycc.edu).