

Advising, Teaching, and Learning for Academic Success  
Northeast Mississippi Community College  
Quality Enhancement Plan  
Executive Summary

During 2018-2019, Northeast Mississippi Community College (NEMCC) underwent an intensive strategic planning process, through which stakeholders reviewed institutional data and identified areas of potential growth and improvement. This process and its resulting Strategic Plan served as the foundation for NEMCC's Quality Enhancement Plan titled ATLAS: Advising, Teaching, and Learning for Academic Success. Institutional research efforts revealed that while national trends for academic advising satisfaction improved year over year, trends at NEMCC simultaneously showed decreases in academic advising satisfaction. Additionally, the piloted efforts of the newly started Student Success Center demonstrated that its targeted advising efforts generated increased student success as compared to the general student body. These gaps helped substantiate the selection of academic advising as NEMCC's QEP topic.

ATLAS is designed to address these issues by focusing on three outcomes:

1. Advising: Improve student success through quality Academic Advising – NEMCC students will achieve higher rates of student success in terms of total average hours earned and average GPA. These direct measurements of student success will be influenced by the interventions and resources that ATLAS will provide for students and faculty advisors. Additionally, NEMCC will provide two new resources through institutional funds to help facilitate this paradigm shift that advising is more than scheduling. First, through its strategic planning process, NEMCC has purchased two Civitas Student Success products that will be implemented beginning in Fall 2020.

Faculty advisors and students will be trained on how to use these resources effectively, and their utilization will help achieve heightened student success. Second, NEMCC will expand its Student Success Center to also encompass counseling services, as well as additional academic advising services. This strengthened Center will become a one-stop-shop for holistic advising leading to academic student success.

2. Teaching: Elevate Academic Advising to be a fundamental component of new student coursework— New students at NEMCC will take two courses that focus heavily on the role of advising in their student success. First, a new course, Orientation (LLS 1311), will be offered each summer that helps students make a first connection with their assigned advisor. Then, students will take College Life (LLS 1151) in their first fall semester. This revised course will be taught by their academic advisor and will continue to foster the advisor-advisee relationship.

3. Learning: Increase College understanding of the NACADA core competencies of Academic Advising – NEMCC will adopt the NACADA core competencies of academic advising as the central dogma of advising on our campus. These competencies include Conceptual, Informational, and Relational components. Newly defined Advising Student Learning Outcomes and an Academic Advising Syllabus will help train faculty on these competencies. NEMCC will help faculty advisors and students understand the NACADA core competencies.

Faculty advisors will receive targeted professional development to help them understand and embrace these competencies. Additionally, students will be taught about the goals of academic advising to the end that they feel more empowered in their advising activities.

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