



Tyler Junior College has identified and selected Academic Success Coaching as the focus of its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The mission of the College, “*The College champions student and community success by providing a caring, comprehensive experience through educational excellence, stellar service, innovative programming, and authentic partnerships,*” emphasizes a commitment to help all students fulfill their potential. Through ongoing assessment of college programs and services, a clear need to focus on improving student success emerged. Specifically, students indicated a desire for more personal support while navigating the challenges of college.

The QEP topic selection incorporated all stakeholders of Tyler Junior College, which include faculty, staff, students, the Board of Trustees, academic leadership, and the Executive Cabinet. The QEP Steering Committee provided multiple opportunities for faculty and staff to submit suggestions for the QEP that would improve student learning outcomes and/or student success. Using state data provided in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Annual Accountability Report to inform their decisions, the Steering Committee narrowed down possible topics to three contenders: Academic Success Coaching, Marketable Skills, and Financial Literacy. The THECB Accountability Report includes measures such as graduation rates, success rates of underprepared students, and fall-to-fall persistence rates. All stakeholder groups voted on the final topic. The topic preferred by the majority was Academic Success Coaching. The QEP Steering Committee affirmed this choice as a viable and sustainable topic that would present great opportunity to enhance overall student success for Tyler Junior College students.

Academic Success Coaching is an initiative to promote student success through an increased connection between the student and the institution from entrance to graduation. In alignment with the mission of the College, the mission of Academic Success Coaching is, “*Academic Success Coaching envisions TJC students fulfilling their potential in an environment that supports students in achieving their academic goals by guiding students to success.*” Academic Success Coaching encompasses goal planning and attainment, study strategies, time management, financial literacy, healthy habits, motivation identification, and resource referrals. These areas address non-cognitive barriers that affect academic goals or potential factors inhibiting a student’s success. Individual student needs are identified through motivational interviewing in a one-on-one meeting between the student and the Academic Success Coach.

The student success goals of the Academic Success Coach QEP are:

- *Academic Success Coaching participants will successfully complete a post-secondary credential.*
- *Academic Success Coaching participants will actively engage in activities designed to improve their academic success.*
- *Academic Success Coaching will become part of the culture at Tyler Junior College.*

Assessment of the QEP includes both direct and indirect measures focused on student success, program success, and institutional transformation. A clear link between Academic Success Coaching and common measures of student success, including persistence rates, grade point average (GPA) and completion, are reported in the literature. Therefore, Tyler Junior College expects that students who receive Academic Success Coaching will have higher persistence rates, overall GPA, and graduation rates than comparison groups.

Implementation of the QEP encompasses targeted communications, comprehensive professional development, allocation of human, financial, and physical resources, and alignment of existing, similar efforts that will allow the Academic Success Coaching program to be brought to scale and available to the entire student population. Through these efforts, students at Tyler Junior College will succeed academically to their full potential and leave the College with an award that prepares them to meet any challenge.

For further information about Academic Success Coaching at Tyler Junior College, contact Belinda A. Prihoda, Director for Institutional Effectiveness at belinda.prihoda@tjc.edu.