

**Quality Enhancement Plan Title:** Guiding Persistence to Success (#GPS)

**Institution:** Albany State University

**QEP Executive Summary:**

The *Guiding Persistence to Success (#GPS)* Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is designed to strengthen progression to completion rates. Albany State University has high DFW rates in its gateway courses and retains students at a lower rate than our peer institutions. The QEP is intended to address these concerns and assist students, at higher rates, complete gateway courses. We will accomplish this through five strategies: progress reports, first year experience course, advising model, study tables, and course redesign. The overall goals of Albany State University's (ASU) QEP are

Goal 1: Decrease the DFW rates in the top 10 courses with high enrollment.

Goal 2: Decrease the number of students on probation, suspension, and dismissal.

Goal 3: Increase the retention rates of students.

Goal 4: Increase student awareness of academic policies and resources that are relevant to student progression and degree completion.

The key elements to implementing ASU's QEP is an early alert system, first-year experience course, advising model, study tables, and course redesign. Early alert is a computerized email-based system of early warning and follow-up for students identified as having academic difficulties early in the semester and a feedback procedure for all faculty regarding the specific actions taken by their identified students. The first-year experience course will provide an initial success model for students and to contribute to the overall well-being of incoming freshmen. The advising model will utilize professional success coaches for lower division students who have earned fewer than 60 credit hours and faculty for upper division students. Study tables will provide tutoring services from faculty who teach the course. Course redesign includes redesigning the top 10 of high enrollment and high DFW rates including the first-year experience course, ASU 1101. These components are intended to work in concert to ensure that students are on the path to completion.

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