

Jackson State University

JSU Re-envisioning Orientation, Advising and Retention (R.O.A.R.)

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Executive Summary

Throughout its history, Jackson State University (JSU) has unswervingly been an advocate of student success. JSU, as the only urban university in the state of Mississippi, strives to prepare its students for academic excellence and prepare students to be curious, ethical and engaged global citizens. The current strategic plan reiterates this in reinforcing “Student’s First and Foremost” in the university strategic goals.

Re-envisioning Orientation, Advising and Retention (R.O.A.R.), Jackson State University’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), is an intentional embodiment of the University’s continuous commitment to fostering and achieving student success.

JSU R.O.A.R. consists of goals, objectives, and strategies designed to ultimately increase the retention rate of first-time full-time freshmen. Expectantly, the strategies utilized in *R.O.A.R.* will ensure that first-time, full-time students receive the necessary tools so as to be successful and retained at Jackson State University.

The primary goals of the Jackson State University QEP are as follows:

- Goal 1:** Re-envisioning Orientation - The goal of Re-envisioning Orientation is to provide students with an orientation experience that will introduce them to the University and to develop and enhance their collegiate learning and cultural experiences.
- Goal 2:** Re-envisioning Advising - The goal of Re-envisioning Advising is to effectively transition from a decentralized advising model to a centralized advising model.
- Goal 3:** Re-envisioning Retention - The goal of Re-envisioning Retention is to improve and sustain the retention rates of first-time full-time freshmen.

The QEP will provide faculty and staff with professional development opportunities to implement the *R.O.A.R.* strategies. JSU academic advisors and faculty mentors will implement strategies and processes that address the QEP outcomes. We believe that these process delivery outcomes identify how academic advising and faculty mentoring should be implemented in the QEP. In addition, these outcomes articulate what to expect in the academic advising experience. Output measures of these advising and mentoring activities are critical in the assessment and data collection in the QEP.

The *R.O.A.R.* QEP will be implemented over a five-year period from 2021-2026. Each strategy is a part of a thoughtful, coordinated, well planned series of activities to increase student engagement, resulting in retention of first-time, full-time freshmen. Some initial steps have already begun, such as organizing committees to re-envision the orientation experiences. The implementation plan of *JSU R.O.A.R.* will exhibit how support will be given to first-time full-time freshmen from onboarding to tracking persistence and retention.

The assessment of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) will be a multi-dimensional and collaborative process by integrating formative, summative, direct and indirect measures at integral phases of the QEP Implementation plan. The assessment plan will evaluate the QEP goals, QEP outcomes, and implementation strategies. This approach will assess students as learners, evaluate the implementation strategies and monitor the progress and intended outcomes of the QEP. Assessment will occur at the course, activity, program, and institutional levels. The assessment of the JSU QEP is intended to demonstrate to what extent academic and student support services, holistic student development and faculty engagement impact student retention. Secondly, the assessment plan will measure student achievement of the JSU QEP outcomes. The assessment plan is comprehensive yet has the flexibility to adapt. In summary, the *JSU R.O.A.R.* QEP transforms the university and the student through modifying processes at the university through an investment of staffing and financial resources.