

QEP Title: Student Success United-Creating Collaborative Experiences For Retention, Progression, and Graduation

Institution: Savannah State University

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As a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), Savannah State University is afforded an opportunity to create a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) every ten years. The QEP is a strategically crafted initiative to benefit students and further the mission of the institution. Our currently proposed QEP, *Student Success United*, has been developed to meet institutional needs and to augment promising existing approaches highlighted during the QEP topic identification process, while also fulfilling the university's mission, vision and strategic planning priorities related to enhancing student success in substantial ways.

As an access institution, Savannah State University is committed to providing pathways to higher education for underrepresented groups and students with non-traditional or limited college preparation. [Thus this QEP and its focus on pedagogy for student success with course redesign reflects the particular needs of the Savannah State University's (SSU) student body. Our commitment to ensuring that all students embark upon purposefully chosen programs of study, SSU will foster and develop a student mindset for life-long learning and reach graduation well prepared for success in the workplace.]

Topic Selection and Implementation Process

Student Success United incorporates a broad-based consideration of institutional research data and strategic planning, stakeholder consultation and consensus, as well as scholarship on best practices related to student success. Faculty, administration, students, and staff have participated in shaping the QEP's collective focus, and this collaboration promotes a wide base of support and investment in the project. There is a clear timeline, organization, budget, and management plan for implementation. Further, in executing this QEP, many significant new initiatives and augmentations will be enacted to reinforce student success practices coordinated for teaching and learning.

Institutional Capability

The Office of Institutional Planning, Research, and Assessment (IRPA) will oversee the activities of the QEP, managed by a QEP Director and who is supported by the QEP Implementation Steering Committee and the QEP Assessment Committee. The QEP also calls for this hiring, a full-time Tutoring Coordinator to facilitate the extensive learning support components of the QEP and a full-time administrative assistant/coordinator who will assist the Director. While the QEP will operate with its own, independent budget, a 5-year financial commitment fully guaranteed by SSU leadership, the QEP will also collaborate with existing campus resources, to oversee the integration of the QEP's vision throughout campus. This will strengthen those resources, as units work collectively to achieve *Student Success United*.

Assessment Plan

The QEP will operate through four main areas—curricula, students, faculty, and staff/services—over the next five years to involve and transform the campus at large. In order to assess *Student Success United*, we have identified specific measures that correspond not only to the university's strategic plan but also to student success outcomes critical to the university. These evaluation practices will include multiple means of assessment(s) involving direct and indirect measures. Specifically, our assessment measures will help us determine the extent to which we are meeting the student success outcomes and the goals that we have formulated for the overall QEP proposal and its component parts, as well as how to formatively revise our methods and strategies, if necessary.