

Tennessee State University Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary



Tennessee State University's Quality Enhancement Plan – titled CADENCE (Connect → Assess → Develop → Engage → Navigate → Create → Excel) – seeks to promote student success through holistic, integrative advising, including improved utilization of academic and student support resources and the integration of educational and career planning.

The development of CADENCE was guided by institutional research and strategic planning, which have consistently identified the improvement of student retention, progression, and degree completion as vital priorities. Through a lengthy process that garnered campus-wide support from faculty, students, staff, and alumni, the QEP topic proposal, review, and selection process was informed by these priorities and specifically by the University's *Impact 2020 Strategic Plan*, which emphasized the improvement of graduation rates as its first goal. The University's current Strategic Plan – *The Pathway to Excellence 2025* – retains this emphasis on student success, reflected again in its first goal: “Attract, prepare, and graduate scholars to change the world.” CADENCE aligns specifically with two objectives of the Strategic Plan that seek to strengthen student support and engagement, respectively, in achieving this goal central to the mission of the University.

CADENCE implements an expanded concept of academic advising that goes beyond course selection and registration, providing coordinated support for students in the major educational decisions and activities essential for their success. CADENCE focuses on ensuring that students connect with institutional resources early in their matriculation, develop an educational plan, engage purposefully in curricular and co-curricular opportunities, and apply educational experiences toward life and career goals.

The goal of CADENCE is to promote student success through holistic advising, improved utilization of academic and student support resources, and the integration of educational and career planning

CADENCE recognizes advising as a teaching and learning process with a defined curriculum and learning goals. CADENCE initiatives are designed to support students in developing educational plans, based on defined personal and career goals, by the end of their first semester, and in creating career profiles, drawing effectively on their educational experiences, by the final semester of their degree program. These educational plans and career profiles provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate the achievement of CADENCE's two stated student learning outcomes:

1. **SLO 1 Educational Planning:** Students will be able to develop and utilize educational plans based on defined personal and career goals.
2. **SLO 2 Integration and Reflection:** Students will be able to articulate and document the significance of curricular and co-curricular experiences in the achievement of defined personal and career goals.

For more information, contact
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