

P.A.C.E.R.S.
A New Model of Academic Advising
University of South Carolina Aiken

For information regarding the development and implementation of this QEP contact:

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Executive Summary

Informed by the strategic planning process and emphasized by the work of several university committees, the University of South Carolina Aiken has chosen academic advising as the focus of its Quality Enhancement Plan.

UofSC Aiken recognizes advising as a foundational connection between the university and each of our students. We are committed to providing a student-centered advising experience that leads to the growth, development, and success of all students from orientation to graduation. Our QEP will result in a comprehensive and systematic advising process that improves organization, efficiency, and communication across campus and focuses on a shift from a transactional academic advising approach to a holistic, student-centered model. This shift will occur through the development of an Office of Academic Advising staffed by professional advisors proactively handling advising for all first-year students. Professional advisors will initiate contact with students at critical times throughout the semester; help students develop key skills for academic, personal, and career success; and connect students with key campus resources. Academic units will develop additional ways to engage first-year students that encourage success. Faculty advisors will receive improved advising training and will become the primary academic advisors for students completing their first year. Implementation of the newly created **P.A.C.E.R.S.** goals and objectives for advising will guide this work:

- Prepare** - Prepare students and advisors for success through training and technology
- Advise** - Provide a clear roadmap through each degree program with strategic benchmarks
- Connect** - Connect students with resources and opportunities to promote academic success and personal growth
- Empower** - Empower students to take responsibility for their own academic, personal, and professional success
- Retain** - Establish a culture of student persistence in the first year that promotes retention, progression, and graduation
- Support** - Help students reach their full potential through mentoring, building relationships, and providing targeted support to achieve their educational and professional goals

The overall goals of the QEP are to improve student success by increasing first-year retention rates, decreasing the percent of first-year students with GPAs below 2.0, and increasing 4-year graduation rates. Additionally, we aim to improve first-year student satisfaction with academic advising and provide better advising resources and training for faculty advisors, as evidenced by ratings on the National Survey of Student Engagement and the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement.