

Gaston College Quality Enhancement Plan: Pathway to Potential



The overall aim of Pathway to Potential is to promote student retention through engaging academic advising interventions.

GOALS:

Students will develop a clear academic plan aligned with their program of study.

Students will demonstrate responsibility for their academic success by actively participating in the advising process.

Students will express satisfaction with advising services at Gaston College.



Executive Summary

Gaston College has developed a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) titled Pathway to Potential (P2P). The goal of P2P is to apply a holistic and proactive approach to academic advising that will encourage students to become active participants in the academic advising process and develop academic plans that are aligned with their educational and career goals. This will be accomplished by creating three new advising centers with a case-management model of academic advising. The success of this initiative will be measured by specific student outcomes related to learning, student progression, and student satisfaction.

A review of literature shows that academic advising has the potential to increase student retention, graduation, and satisfaction. As such, Gaston College has committed significant resources to P2P in order to create and maintain a case-management model for academic advising. To support the QEP, the College allocated four additional advisors, bringing student-to-advisor ratios within nationally recommended levels. Additionally, the College dedicated three physical spaces for the creation of three new centrally-located academic advising centers. The centers, operated by staff advisors, are open to in-person, phone, and virtual advising appointments.

Assessment of the outcomes for P2P will come from multiple sources throughout the life of the project. Student surveys, both internal and external, will be used to measure student satisfaction and learning outcomes. Metrics related to student retention will be gathered to further determine the effectiveness of P2P. Through these multiple sources and on-going data collection, a comprehensive assessment plan will help to determine what, if any, adjustments need to be made throughout the life of P2P and to conduct a final analysis during the fifth-year review.

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