

Personalized Learning Pathways

Executive Summary:

The purpose of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Houston Community College (HCC) is to improve student success through a Personalized Learning Pathways approach which provides holistic, individualized support for students throughout their journey from initial interest and program enrollment through award completion and future employment or continued education. This QEP will focus on implementing the Personalized Learning Pathways framework from student entry through the first 15 credits. The identification of the final topic arose from a process involving stakeholders across the College's campuses in discussion and focus groups. The result aligns with HCC's mission to serve its diverse communities with strategic focus on student success, equity, and personalized learning.

Through its institutional analysis of data and deliberations among stakeholders, the College brought to light inequities in outcomes present from the start of students' journeys. In consideration of the root cause, the College identified two problems: first, Houston Community College's system does not proactively identify student needs/challenges and provide corresponding support; second, Houston Community College students do not get consistent and accurate information to help them make effective decisions.

To address these issues, the QEP encompasses a holistic approach to support student success that empowers all College employees to assist students by creating Personalized Learning Pathways, fostering a culture of respect and inclusion, increasing communication across faculty and staff lines, and identifying student needs and challenges to develop their strengths from an asset perspective.

Activities arise from four areas of strategic focus: 1) student advising and engagement strategies, 2) a comprehensive professional development plan for faculty and staff, 3) alignment and integration of data and information systems, and 4) implementation of coordinated interventions. The proposed plan uses HCC's student persona matrix to think more systematically about student-centered design and the types of supports that may be necessary to meet specific student needs. A cornerstone of this approach is that students should be active participants; thus, a key activity for students is development of a *Personalized Education Plan* (PEP) in which students will create their own journey map based on personal, academic, and career interests.

Building on its work with the Guided Pathways movement, Complete College America, and Achieving the Dream, Houston Community College is well-positioned to extend its student success mission by empowering students to become active participants in their own educational and career development. Through Personalized Learning Pathways, HCC seeks to meet students where they are and support them in where they want to go.

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