

Panther PATHways: Attainment through Access

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Executive Summary

Panther PATHways is a focused effort to institute guided pathways and provide structured guidance and proactive, holistic support measures for all students at South Florida State College (SFSC). The overarching goal is to improve student completion rates (attainment) through access and enable the seamless transfer to a four-year institution and/or in-field job placement. This will be accomplished by reimagining academic advising practices and providing bundled and sequenced support in preparing students for the path, advising students on the path, teaching students along the path, and helping students successfully complete the path.

Selection of the topic for Panther PATHways was identified through the College's ongoing, inclusive planning and evaluation process and included broad-based support and involvement of a wide range of institutional constituencies. Initially, a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Planning Committee identified the topic through a combination of analyzing convocation response cards, distillation of institutional data, feedback from online surveys of faculty, staff and students, and finally through a series of faculty and staff focus group sessions. Subsequently, two virtual workshops were held which resulted in the identification of the final topic of increasing student attainment through access and characterized the problem that the QEP should address as being that "students need structured guidance and holistic support measures."

Seizing the opportunity to redesign advising, which presents the greatest challenge and opportunity for improvement at the College, the QEP provides the impetus to accelerate the institutionalization of guided pathways, a multi-year effort started several years ago. Consequently, the College has earmarked the central core element of establishing guided pathways as advising while simultaneously continuing with full pathways implementation. Accordingly, the "A" in Panther PATHways will be the focus of the QEP.

Panther PATHways is a natural progression from the College's previous QEP, a student orientation and success initiative, but with a much broader scope. Three student success outcomes have been developed to help drive the QEP and provide the foundation for the subsequent assessment. These align closely with the College's mission, vision, and current strategic plan.

Recognizing that increasing student attainment through access requires the support and engagement of a broad cross-section of the College community, a wide range of stakeholders have been involved in the planning of each component of the QEP.

By providing holistic and intrusive support services to help students attain their desired credentials, Panther PATHways will push the College to think differently and more creatively about the programs, courses, and services offered. Assessing the QEP will disaggregate student performance data to gauge progress in achieving student success outcomes which will also provide a lens on inequities in student outcomes which will help the College ensure that all students are provided a cohesive academic and nonacademic support experience designed with their needs in mind.