

Clafin University

Quality Enhancement Plan: CU-STARs (Students tracked, advised, retained, succeed)

Contact: Dr. Bridget Dewees, Assistant Vice President, Institutional Effectiveness(bdewees@clafin.edu)

Executive Summary

Clafin University's Quality Enhancement Plan, CU-STARs (Students tracked, advised, retained, succeed) stems from its Mission and its Strategic Plan and was developed through a broad-based collaborative process undergirded on a thorough analysis of institutional data aligned with issues germane to higher education. The plan supports the mission of the institution which highlights its commitment to ensuring access to exemplary educational opportunities that develops globally engaged visionary leaders.

CU-STARs is aligned with the strategic goals of the university, specifically, goals I) Commitment to student engagement and success and III) Cutting Edge academic enterprise to promote student competitiveness and success, and will play a central role in the attainment of these objectives. Through assessment of current practices and success trends at the university, research on best practices and a review of stakeholder feedback, the university identified opportunities for improvement in the advising and retention processes that will contribute to student success. Thus, to address these issues, the university has developed a plan which involves a reorganization of the key areas supporting student success and a redesign of the advising process to include effective use of technology to engage and track student learning and success.

CUSTARS will direct STUDENTS to explore and define their own purpose, goals, and curricular pathways to achieve learning and developmental outcomes and incorporate appropriate technology for better TRACKING to complement and enhance ADVISING with the addition of academic coaching, resulting in improved student RETENTION and ensuring that they SUCCEED at Clafin and beyond.

The overall success of CU-STARs will be evaluated through a comprehensive plan that assesses progress in five areas a) Student's ability to identify clear goals and curricular pathways (vision) b) proficient implementation of advising methods through the use of technology c) consistent student engagement with advisors d) increased student retention, persistence and academic success and e) student success via placement in field of study or admission to graduate school. The assessment plan ensures an annual internal review of the data by the CU-STARs Implementation team and external evaluators in year 3 and 5 to facilitate changes as warranted, thus ensuring the long-term institutionalization of the plan.