



Belong@Coastal: Building Student Achievement Through Inclusive Engagement

Quality Enhancement Plan

Executive Summary

Coastal Carolina University chose *Belong@Coastal: Building Student Achievement Through Inclusive Engagement* as its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The goal of *Belong@Coastal* is to maximize students' academic success and sense of belonging within the University by implementing teaching and mentoring practices focused on inclusive action, critical evaluation, and cultural reflection. Using measurable activities rooted in the Association of American Colleges and Universities' (AAC&U) guidelines for building Inclusive Excellence (IE), *Belong@Coastal's* student learning outcomes (SLOs) will elevate students' levels of academic achievement and social belonging through targeted curricular and co-curricular engagement. Together, this will lead to improvement in the University's student retention rates and an increase in diverse students' attraction to the University.

Belong@Coastal will develop inclusive curricular and co-curricular practices and learning environments affirming the institution's mission to empower students as productive, responsible, healthy citizens with a global perspective. Inclusive curricular and co-curricular practices support a learning environment in which all students are: a) valued for their distinctive skills, diverse experiences, and different perspectives; b) represented and treated equitably in the University's culture; c) provided equal access to institutional resources and opportunities; and d) enabled to contribute fully to their own and the University's success. The inclusive practices and environments developed for the QEP will be especially beneficial for those student populations that consistently experience greater than average challenges to degree completion and timely graduation. Based on institutional data, these populations include underrepresented minority (URM), Pell Grant eligible, and male students. At its core, *Belong@Coastal* is aligned with the University's articulated values of truth, respect, integrity, and excellence, as well as its identity as an institution dedicated to education as a lifelong commitment.

Designed to facilitate student achievement through all stages of the undergraduate experience at the University, the QEP's two SLOs are interconnected and progressively build students' levels of engagement through inclusive action, critical evaluation, and cultural reflection. SLO 1 focuses primarily on curricular and co-curricular practices implemented in students' first year and core-level experiences. SLO 2 focuses on building students' curricular and co-curricular engagement and professional development in upper-division and advanced levels of study.

SLO 1: Students will engage in inclusive problem-solving activities that build awareness of self and others' identities, experiences, and perspectives.

SLO 2: Students will participate in collaborative activities that elevate their academic and professional development through inclusive engagement with faculty, staff, and other students.

Additional questions may be directed to Dr. Daniel J. Ennis, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at dennis@coastal.edu or (843) 349-2089.

Please note Coastal Carolina University changed the name of its QEP from *Succeed @ Coastal* to *Belong@Coastal* to more closely align with the QEP's focus and intent.