

QEP Title: Persistence + Progression = Completion: Retention (PPC: R)

Institution: Shaw University

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QEP website: <https://www.shawu.edu/QEP/?section=about-shaw>

Shaw University exists to advance knowledge, facilitate student learning and achievement, to enhance the spiritual and ethical values of its students, and to transform a diverse community of learners into future global leaders. The intention for developing a QEP is to identify shared or common elements of the academic journey that impact all Shaw students. Subsequently, student success interventions will be directed toward identifying the academic and social needs of entering students, providing interventions to address those needs, and assessing the impact of those interventions on students' overall retention to full the mission of the university in its service and support of student success.

For several years, the university has monitored retention and related factors that impact student retention. The university plans to enhance student success and improve retention by providing adequate resources, a socially and intellectually nurturing environment, and staff trained to address the academic and emotional needs of students. Shaw University encompasses a variety of learners from entering freshmen to graduate students to adult learners. Assessment of the data will allow Shaw University to analyze the effectiveness of the QEP and make adaptations to the goals in the plan that will effectively guide and prepare students to become productive citizens who contribute to society.

In considering the topic and activities for the QEP, a component of Strategic Priority #3 was emphasized:

- Strategic Priority 3: Improve student retention.

Shaw University desired a QEP to be a naturally evolving initiative that coincides with the goals of the university. Before continuing with planning and implementation of *Persistence + Progression = Completion: Retention (PPC: R)*, the strategic planning committee ensured that the topic complements the mission of the university and aligns with the *2020+ Strategic Plan*.

PPC: R consists of goals designed to stabilize and increase the retention rate of first-time, full-time, first-year students. Expectantly, the strategies utilized in PPC: R will ensure that first-time, full-time freshmen receive the necessary tools to be successful and retained at Shaw University.

The primary goal of the Shaw University QEP is as follows:

Goal: Stabilize and increase the retention rates of first-time, full-time freshmen.

To achieve this goal, the university will implement several broad-based activities aimed at improving student academic performance and engagement including:

- The establishment of a mentoring program with professional academic advisors and peer mentors;
- The development and promotion of campus-wide traditions and engagement strategies that will foster a sense of belonging for first-time, full-time freshmen;
- The monitoring of students' academic progress and performance through the university's early alert system; and
- The monitoring of student use of co-curricular resources such as counseling and tutorial services.