



PASS (Providing Advisement for Student Success)

Executive Summary

Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC) came into existence in 2009 as the result of a merger of Coosa Valley Technical College and Northwestern Technical College. The vision and mission of the institution has always been to focus on serving the communities of Northwest Georgia through providing a quality technical education and workforce development while supporting student success. Through the continued efforts to support the success of our students at GNTC, the institution has looked to place a focus on the topic of advising for our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Through ongoing, comprehensive, and institution-wide planning and evaluation, GNTC continually monitors student success. Retention, graduation, and job placement indicators as well as student satisfaction assisted in determining the next steps for our QEP. GNTC surveyed students, faculty, staff, advisory committee members, the board of directors, and the board of trustees in early 2021. Additionally, around the time of that initial survey, a QEP Committee was formed to review the current and continued findings for topic selection. Following the review of the results and through ongoing analysis, it is apparent that advising should be the selected topic with an aim at improving our students' overall ability to be successful here at GNTC.

The goal of GNTC's *PASS Initiative (Providing Advisement for Student Success)* is to provide a more informative, in-depth, and holistic method of advising students.

GNTC's PASS Initiative has identified the following student success metrics (SSMs) and hopes for the intended outcomes:

- Overall Student retention from first semester to next semester enrollment will increase
- Student retention for under-represented categories will increase each academic year
- Student satisfaction with the advisement process will increase
- Student engagement and communication with advisement representatives will increase

GNTC has proposed a blended model of advisement that will create a greater focus on engaging students with the advisement process. Central to this model is the development and use of available guided pathway maps for program completion and a newer method of first-semester advising for students. First-semester advising will be handled by current staff members from areas of the Department of Student Success who currently have a primary focus on providing student support and student resources. Using the developed pathways, students will be provided with a clearer vision of the requirements needed to complete or move forward in their respective programs, while also receiving personalized contact and support from GNTC staff advisement. Following the initial meeting(s) for advising in their first term, students will be guided through a transition to faculty program advisors who will further help solidify the student's path through the program.

GNTC's PASS Initiative allows for a stronger focus on our mission and strategic goals of enhancing student access and success. This will be a shift from the institution's current advising format of solely relying on faculty advisement for students as they initially enroll at the college. Students receiving first-semester advisement will be based on those required to complete the New Student Orientation during each semester as a part of their admission process.

For more information, please contact the Advisement Coordinator Larry Blanchard, Jr. (lblanchard@gntc.edu)