

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Paris Junior College – LINC: Learning, Interacting, Networking, and Communicating

Paris Junior College (PJC) developed *LINC: Learning, Interacting, Networking, and Communicating* as a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to improve students' computer skills for success in modern learning environments. Increased reliance on technology as a medium for learning, lower than average internet usage in the college's service area, and faculty opinions that students' computer skills needed improvement led PJC to explore "basic computer skills development" as a topic for the college's 2022-2027 QEP. A review of the literature informed faculty of established relationships between computer literacy and success in college. Likewise, polling all college constituencies demonstrated support for a plan to better orient and train students on the effective use of technologies used at PJC. College faculty and staff took action and developed LINC, a QEP with clear objectives and a customized curriculum. LINC aims to increase student success by equipping students with the skills they need to flourish in a learning environment enhanced by technology.

Objectives

The following learning objectives are the foundation of LINC's curriculum and assessment strategies. After participation in the QEP curriculum, students will:

- 1. Demonstrate an understanding of basic computer skills.**
 - a. Accessing the Internet on a laptop/desktop computer
 - b. Using search engines to find reputable sources for coursework
 - c. Downloading files from the Internet successfully
- 2. Demonstrate successful use of PJC's BlackBoard Learning Management System (LMS).**
 - a. Finding and accessing BlackBoard using a laptop/desktop computer
 - b. Accessing, navigating, finding, and completing BlackBoard assignments
- 3. Demonstrate the ability to access and use PJC DragonMail.**
 - a. Creating and sending a formal e-mail message
 - b. Uploading a file (.docx, .pdf, etc.) to an e-mail message and sending it to a recipient(s)
- 4. Demonstrate knowledge of common computer applications.**
 - a. Opening, creating, and saving a document in Microsoft Word
 - b. Opening, creating, and saving a document in Microsoft PowerPoint

Implementation and Assessment

PJC implements LINC's curriculum and assessment strategies in Learning Frameworks courses, required of all degree path students at the college. Learning Frameworks was chosen as a QEP-designated course to reach most students early in their degree path. The QEP curriculum, including a pre-assessment, video lessons, learning materials, and a post-assessment, blends seamlessly into the course, just as students acquire other essential skills for successful learning in college.

Assessment of the plan consists of both formative and summative assessment strategies. Learning Frameworks instructors conduct a formative assessment based on demonstrated student performance of LINC's skills. The formative assessment allows instructors to identify students in need of special assistance while the learning process is ongoing. In contrast, the summative assessment provides a picture of how students' skills improved after engaging in the curriculum by comparing pre-assessment data with that of a post-assessment. QEP team members use data collected from assessments and student success rates to guide modifications to the plan toward meeting the goal of increasing student success rates by 3% annually over the course of the QEP.

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