

6+6 = Pathway to Success

Ranger College QEP

From the moment a potential student applies to Ranger College to the completion of their first semester, they are confronted with numerous obstacles that prevent a smooth transition to their second semester. This period in the student's academic career will be known as "6+6," representing six months before the student first sets foot on campus to six months after their first day of class. The 6+6 time frame is the most critical segment of a student's entire academic career. Six months prior to the first day of college classes is typically when students apply for admission, complete the FAFSA, visit campus, and submit required paperwork. Yet after that initial application process, many of the students never enroll in a single class. The first "6" in 6+6 represents the time when students are at risk even before setting foot in a Ranger classroom. The second "6" begins the first day of class. Overcoming structural barriers is a key factor in determining if a student completes a second semester. Despite the fact that several nationwide initiatives exist to address separate components of 6+6, nothing joins them together or considers their impact as a whole. What remains unknown after a review of the existing literature is whether or not a comprehensive 6+6 program is viable and—if so—what would it look like? This QEP creates the optimal delivery model of a complete 6+6 system and removes as many barriers as possible for our students.

We call this program **6+6 = Pathway to Success**. Under this initiative, Ranger College will fulfill two primary objectives: **Objective 1:** Remove identified barriers to student success; **Objective 2:** Increase retention and graduation rates. The college will achieve these goals through specific actions, including cross-training employees, introducing holistic advising, providing wraparound services, and implementing a new student information system.

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