



Quality Enhancement Plan: Improving Retention and Graduation Rates Through Enhanced Academic Support

Executive Summary

LaGrange College selected Improving Retention and Student Success through Enhanced Academic Support as its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for 2023-2028. The QEP has been designed to enhance the current advising process by creating a new Advising Dean system, which will provide additional advising assistance and awareness of support services to LaGrange College (i) students, (ii) first-year advisors, and (iii) major advisors. In developing this QEP, the college lives out its mission statement and promise by providing the support needed for students to achieve their potential for success in life and career. Key aspects and outcomes for the QEP were determined based on comprehensive input from constituents across campus.

This QEP will provide support for one of the main themes of the college's current strategic plan, which calls for policy and program development that is centered on student success. There are two key goals for the QEP:

1. **Increase first-year retention from 62% to 72% by 2028.**
2. **Increase persistence to graduation from 46% to 60% (as measured by six-year graduation rates) by 2028.**

To accomplish this, three student-specific and two program-specific development outcomes have been established.

Student Outcome 1: Students will develop an initial academic plan (which may include an internship, professional experience, or other high impact practice) with the support of their initial advisors.

Student Outcome 2: Students will make timely progress towards graduation.

Student Outcome 3: Students will have knowledge of, and make increased and appropriate use of, academic support services to help them succeed in their courses.

Program Outcome 1: LaGrange College's advising program will provide faculty with consistent advisor development opportunities, including training in policies and procedures related to scheduling, pathways to graduation (including the consideration of a minor or second major), high impact practices, and recommendations for student academic support services. Training will be mandatory for all advisors and will operate on a continuing basis. As part of advising development, an advising handbook, including the definition of advising and a list of HIPs, will be maintained and updated yearly by the Advising Deans.

Program Outcome 2: The percentage of LaGrange College undergraduate students taking advantage of available support services will increase from year 1 to year 5.

Institutional Contacts

Dr. Brian Peterson, Vice President for Academic Affairs and SACSCOC liaison, bpeters2@lagrange.edu

Dr. Kerry Kenner, Associate Vice President for Student Experience and Dean of Students and QEP Director, kkenner@lagrange.edu