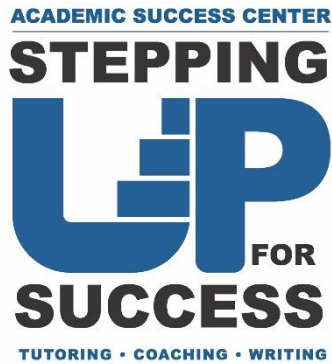


QEP Executive Summary



The Lindsey Wilson College QEP, *Stepping Up for Success: A Three-Pronged Approach to Enhancing Student Success*, is intended to increase student retention rates, graduation rates, successful course completion rates, and GPAs through a three-pronged approach to improving the Academic Success Center. The prongs include implementing success coaches, strengthening tutoring, and enhancing writing consultations. The Academic Success Center (ASC) is envisioned as a central hub at Lindsey Wilson College where students feel comfortable, visit often, and do not feel stigmatized. This program is intended to complement the current First-Year Experience (FYE) program and to extend support to students throughout their sophomore through senior years.

The first aim of the QEP is to implement success coaching and integrate it into the ASC. Success coaches will be assigned to sophomores and follow them throughout their college experience. The success coaches will provide support for students, bolstering existing support networks (e.g., faculty, advisors, athletic coaches, and counselors) by connecting students with the proper resources, particularly in the areas of tutoring and writing consultation.

The QEP's second prong is to strengthen the tutoring services currently being provided by establishing more rigorous training for peer tutors. Peer tutors will be trained by faculty within the tutoring discipline to ensure content areas are accurately covered and through ASC-sponsored workshops focused on pedagogy for tutoring.

The third prong of the plan is enhancing writing consultation through the addition of a dedicated director and increased training of peer writing consultants. The writing director will have a master's or Ph.D. in English or composition & rhetoric. The director will provide training for the peer writing consultants, in line with best practices in writing center theory and pedagogy and establish a welcoming culture for the diverse student body at the college including off-campus undergraduate and graduate students.

The ASC is a vital resource at Lindsey Wilson College, particularly because so many of its students come to college academically underprepared for the rigors of college. A highly effective ASC can substantially increase student GPA and retention (Doman, 2014; Walsh, Larson, & Parry, 2009; Jeffreys, 2001). A success center with a positive reputation among faculty and students builds community and a sense of belonging for first-year students, leading students to use the resource more frequently and thus enhancing its effectiveness and destigmatizing tutoring (Hawkins, Fogg, Wilson, & Browne, 2022; Ramsey, Blowers, Merriman, Glenn, & Terry, 2000). Furthermore, it is envisioned that tutors and writing consultants will visit common general education classes (e.g., Writing Studies I and II, Public Speaking, Christian Beliefs) so that students meet peer tutors and can start building relationships with them, thus making the ASC a known entity that students are more likely to visit.

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