

# AMOC'S FIRST YEAR

## The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Executive Summary

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's QEP, *A Moc's First Year*, emerged after ongoing comprehensive planning and evaluation processes along with extensive feedback from campus constituents. Tied directly to the University's strategic plan and mission, *A Moc's First Year* addresses the need for intentional communities as expressed by students and exacerbated by COVID-19.

The goal of *A Moc's First Year* QEP is to build and institutionalize learning communities for all incoming first-time, full-time (FTFT) students. A learning community is defined as a cohort of students actively engaging in two or more linked courses with opportunities to engage around a broad topic or question. Incoming FTFT students will enroll in an FYE course and a paired general education course or join a major-based foundational cohort of three linked courses. Each learning community will incorporate social and community activities, the introduction of campus and academic success resources, and a library/information literacy component.

*A Moc's First Year* instructors will attend a spring training to support their excellence in teaching by expanding access to pedagogical development resources. The training will include an interactive time for learning community partners to collaborate to determine connection points between their courses.

*A Moc's First Year* will primarily be assessed and tracked using student success measures that include the following:

1. National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) scores related to Sense of Belonging in first-year students.
2. NSSE scores in specific areas related to engagement in first-year students.

Other student success markers we will track include the following:

3. Increase GPA of First-Time Full-time (FTFT) Undergraduates by 3% from 2.79 to 2.82.
4. Lower DFW rates for students in Learning Communities and Residential Colleges by 3% from 21% to 17%.
5. Continuous improvements in faculty development workshop efficacy.

The QEP will be assessed in partnership with the Office of Accreditation and Assessment and the Walker Center for Teaching and Learning. Additionally, University leadership has devoted financial and personnel resources to support the success of A Moc's First Year.

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