



GUIDING PARSONS TO SUCCESS

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Snead State Community College Quality Enhancement Plan

Executive Summary

Snead State Community College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), *Guiding Parsons to Success* (GPS), focuses on improving student success through a redesign of the College's academic advising model. The College previously had a decentralized, faculty-only advising model. During development of the QEP topic, this approach to advising was found to have several weaknesses, including a lack of ownership of academic advising by one position/unit, student confusion caused by a lack of assigned advisors, and a lack of advising consistency across the institution's divisions. Faculty were found to be passionate about academic advising, and students liked being advised by faculty within their field of study. However, feedback from focus groups, surveys, and an in-depth report on the College's advising process by two external National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) consultants all indicated the need for an Academic Advising Center as a primary contact point and for a Director for Academic Advising to oversee academic advising across campus.

Major tasks to be completed during the *GPS* QEP include (1) migrating from the current decentralized, faculty-only advising model to a more centralized dual model, (2) opening an Academic Advising Center, (3) hiring a Director for Academic Advising, (4) hiring a small number of professional Advisors, and (5) providing better professional development, guidance, and resources to all Advisors. The College joined NACADA, will be actively participating in NACADA conferences and events, and will be reviewing and utilizing the organization's resources to improve the advising process.

To demonstrate the impact of Snead State's QEP, student success outcomes will be tracked for cohorts consisting of full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolling for the fall semester. The identified student success outcomes are:

- (1) decreasing the number of full-time students taking less than 15 semester hours per semester;
- (2) increasing the fall-to-spring persistence rate;
- (3) increasing the fall-to-fall retention rate;
- (4) increasing the graduation rate (150% of normal time);
- (5) increasing student utilization of academic advising; and
- (6) increasing student satisfaction with academic advising.

Snead State aims to significantly enhance the academic experiences and achievements of its students. Monitoring these outcomes will provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of the QEP, guide improvement efforts, support student success, and promote institutional excellence.

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