



Reimagining the First Year Experience for the 21st Century Student

Executive Summary

Southern Crescent Technical College (SCTC) is dedicated to guiding students toward academic excellence while fostering their active involvement as valuable contributors to both the community and the workforce. In higher education, the first year of college holds a distinct and transformative experience. Yet first-semester and first-year college students possess a heightened risk of academic failure and non-persistence among students during their first year of college. Ultimately, non-persistence and academic failure among other factors lead to reduced rates of retention (Astin, 1999; Barefoot, 2000; Felten, et. al, 2016; Gardner, 1986). Therefore, in an attempt to counter academic failure and improve retention rates, SCTC will implement a carefully designed action plan to improve student success.

SCTC's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), titled "Reimagining the First Year Experience for the 21st Century Student" and branded as "FYE of the Tiger," will take a systematic approach to transforming the first-year experience for contemporary students through an innovative online module-based pedagogy. The module-based strategy of this QEP will increase awareness of college resources, aid in the identification and application of skills necessary for career success and increase retention rates.

Assessment of the QEP will be continuous and deliberate. As the QEP is piloted for full implementation, the assessment strategy will focus on gathering data and conducting an analysis to guide the implementation process. The QEP's impact will be assessed through use of the following goals and related student learning and achievement outcomes:

Goal 1: Utilize the resources and services available to promote student success.

Student Learning Outcome: Students will demonstrate an increased awareness of college resources.

Goal 2: Cultivate skills necessary for college and career readiness for 21st century students.

Student Learning Outcome: Students will understand and apply skills necessary for college and career readiness.

Goal 3: Retention (Fall-to-Fall)

Student Achievement Outcome: The retention rate for first-time students will increase.

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