

Valencia College's Quality Enhancement Plan

Starting Right in Gateway Courses

Executive Summary

Identified through Valencia College's ongoing, comprehensive planning and evaluation processes, the Starting Right in Gateway Courses Quality Enhancement Plan represents a commitment to improving student learning and success in a set of courses that have the strongest connection to students' persistence. In addition to their high enrollment and relatively low course success rates, gateway courses are also often the first classes students take, and students' initial college experiences are crucial to their subsequent success. Project outcomes include improved gateway course success, which will result in increased Fall-to-Spring persistence; improved student achievement of gateway learning outcomes; and increased student engagement with faculty, peers, and support services.

Gateway QEP strategies introduce additional support for students *prior to, during, and after* gateway course enrollment. They include improvements to our learning support, gateway teaching, student communication, and post-course reflection and action planning. Learning support will be marketed more effectively, complemented by a learning-focused communication strategy. Faculty will work in learning communities to engage in inquiry about their students' experiences and success, supported by accessible data, an evidence-based teaching toolkit, and faculty development programming. For students who do not pass a gateway class, a course "wrapper" will guide them in reflecting on their experience and developing an action plan for success before re-taking it.

Valencia's established record of success in bringing student success solutions to scale across a large, multi-campus institution; longstanding commitment to learning, supported by a comprehensive infrastructure; expert analytics team and access to robust datasets; and expertise in project assessment give us great confidence that the Gateway QEP will not only realize its quantitative outcomes; it will also demonstrate to all students that they absolutely belong and can thrive at Valencia and beyond.

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