

Guide to Personal Success South Florida State College's Quality Enhancement Plan

Guide to Personal Success (GPS) is South Florida State College's (SFSC) Quality Enhancement Plan. GPS is a first-year student success initiative, which addresses the notion that many first-year students are unprepared for college. Founded on significant stakeholder participation, the plan will create pathways to empower students to succeed as full partners in navigating their own educational experiences, thus becoming confident and self-reliant learners. GPS is comprised of three key, interrelated components: new student orientation, first-year experience seminar, and faculty/staff professional development. These components will function in unison to enhance a student's college experience and maximize their success.

Goals

Topic selection for SFSC's QEP involved a comprehensive, year-long process that involved analyzing data from various surveys (national and college-wide) and soliciting input from college stakeholders (students, employees, and members of the community). SFSC's QEP will focus on *equipping*, *engaging*, and *integrating* its students to help them be better prepared for the expectations of college and beyond. Each of the goals has a number of student learning outcomes which will gauge their attitudes, beliefs, and values for each goal. The three goals of the QEP are:

1. *Equip* students with the skills and resources to become proficient in the use of college and support service resources
2. *Engage* students in the learning process to be self-reliant, self-confident, and responsible college students
3. *Integrate* students into the academic, social, and community activities that will enhance their college experience

Plan Components

To accomplish the QEP goals, the plan has been organized into three components. The first component is a mandatory four hour orientation program for all new degree and certificate-seeking students; students are required to complete orientation prior to the start of their classes. The second component is a one credit hour first-year experience (FYE) seminar course required for all degree seeking students with 15 or less college credits. FYE seminar is designed to build upon information and concepts learned during orientation. Lastly, a FYE faculty training academy and *Teaching Excellence Institute (TEI)* will serve FYE Seminar instructors by providing specialized training and instruction. These professional development programs will be available to all college employees and provide a means for FYE seminar instructors to maintain their FYE Seminar teaching credential.

Implementation and Assessment

Three implementation teams and two support teams have been formed to help ensure the success of GPS. The implementation teams include Orientation, FYE Seminar, and TEI; the support teams include Marketing/Promotions and Technology Support. The GPS director is responsible for overseeing the teams' activities and implementation of GPS. An assessment plan has been designed to measure the effectiveness of the GPS. The plan is organized according to various goals, student learning outcomes, and assessment/performance measures and benchmarks. The nationally recognized instrument, Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE), is a significant component of the QEP assessment plan. Other sources of data that will be examined include the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), student focus groups, Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI), and course level student information.

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