

First-Year Experience: Reading My Way to Learning

Maysville Community & Technical College

Executive Summary

The mission of Maysville Community and Technical College (MCTC) challenges learners to pursue their educational, career, and personal development goals. MCTC is a comprehensive institution and offers degrees, diploma and certificate programs to prepare students for transfer to a baccalaureate program or directly to the workforce.

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) topic was selected through broad-based input from faculty, staff and students and was grounded in a long felt desire of senior faculty and staff to provide students with needed tools to be successful in a collegiate setting. This *First-Year Experience: Reading My Way to Learning* proposal was refined through community input, research of best practices and work of the QEP Committee. The purpose is to enhance critical reading comprehension abilities of the MCTC community and foster academic success through completion of a first-year experience course. Formally stated,

Goal: Upon completion of the MCTC QEP, *First-Year Experience: Reading My Way to Learning*, students will demonstrate an increase in critical reading abilities through a cross-curricular focus on strategies that begins with a first-year experience course (GE 101 or GE 100) focused on critical reading.

Primary project actions are:

- Action 1: Diploma and degree-seeking students are expected to complete a first-year experience course (GE 101 or GE 100).
- Action 2: Faculty will implement critical reading strategies in discipline courses to build academic success.

Professional development plans have been made in light of both primary actions of the MCTC QEP proposal with workshops offered to faculty and staff each semester.

A comprehensive assessment plan was developed consisting of two levels of assessment:

- Course level assessment of first-year experience topics and critical reading skills to improve student learning; and,
- Institutional level assessment of implementation and the overall QEP process to improve student learning.

Student learning outcomes will be assessed using common rubrics for each focus area of the first-year experience courses, GE 101 and GE 100, and critical reading skills in discipline courses each semester. Baseline reading information from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) data was collected in 2007 and will be compared to data collected in 2010 and 2013 to monitor reading improvements over the implementation period. A parallel critical reading survey will be administered each year to students and faculty to monitor progress. Upon completion of program requirements, students will complete the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) reading exam as an exit assessment that will be linked to entrance reading scores to show individual growth.

MCTC possesses the institutional capacity to move forward with the planned proposal. Human, physical and fiscal resources have been identified to successfully complete the project. Additionally, the faculty and staff have the intangible will to implement the *First-Year Experience: Reading My Way to Learning* plan.

For more information, please contact Dr. Dana Calland, Associate Dean of Academic Support Services & QEP Director at dana.calland@kctcs.edu