

# What is a QEP?



## Starting Right in Gateway Courses Quality Enhancement Plan

### WHAT IS A QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN?

A Quality Enhancement Plan is a long-term, collegewide project focused on the improvement, enrichment, and enhancement of the student learning experience — and a major part of our reaffirmation process through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), a regional accreditation agency for higher education institutions in the Southern states.

Every 10 years, the College must go through a process of reaffirming our accreditation with SACSCOC. This accreditation process is particularly focused on student learning and requires the development of a QEP that is implemented over a five-year period.

#### The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) describes a carefully designed course of action that:

- Is well-defined and focused on a topic or issue
- Is focused on enhancing student learning and/or the environment supporting student learning
- Is clearly connected to the mission of the College

Our QEP should be **embedded** within the College's planning and evaluation process, **evolve** from existing work or from emerging concerns about student learning and be **evaluated** based on relevant data.

#### Our Quality Enhancement Plan: Starting Right in Gateway Courses

The Starting Right in Gateway Courses Quality Enhancement Plan represents a Valencia College commitment to improving student learning and success in a set of courses that, based on analyses of college data, have the strongest connection to student persistence and graduation rates.

#### Our QEP builds on two of our Big Ideas:

- Anyone can learn anything under the right conditions
- Start Right

### GATEWAY COURSE CHARACTERISTICS

Gateway courses are identified by these characteristics:

**500+**

High enrollment (500 or more students per term)



Low course success rates (Less than 70% success)



Strong connection between student performance and re-enrollment.

## OUR QEP PROCESS



### KEY STRATEGIES

- Proactive, data-informed advising
- Increased learning support
- Strategic communication
- Reflective, collaborative, iterative teaching

### QEP RESOURCES

# \$17.6 MILLION

New resources dedicated to support the Starting Right in Gateway Courses Quality Enhancement Plan

- Full-time faculty positions
- Course wrapper incentive
- Summer Institute and Summit
- Faculty director/coordinator
- Stipends for course development
- External consultant
- Project travel
- External evaluator
- Marketing
- Student worker support

**Starting Right in  
Gateway Courses  
= SUCCESS**

### PRE-COURSE

- Advisors are assigned to students upon admission
- Advisors will provide students with course selection support
- Students will be encouraged to complete course refreshers



### DURING THE COURSE

- Advisors will keep learning how to best support gateway course selection
- Faculty will meet regularly with peers, engage with a data and teaching toolkit, and participate in focused faculty development
- Students and faculty will receive strategic, learning-focused communication



### AFTER THE COURSE

- Learning support staff will engage students in a course reflection and action planning process before a course re-take\*

*\*This is for students who did not attain an A, B, or C in their gateway course.*

### OUTCOMES

- Improve course success (the proportion of students attaining an A, B, or C) in gateway courses by 2028.
- Improve fall-to-spring persistence among students taking gateway courses by 3 percentage points by 2028.
- Improve student achievement of at least one learning outcome in each gateway course in each learning outcomes assessment model cycle.
- Increase student engagement with faculty, peers, and support services in gateway courses.

