

PRCC's QEP - Executive Summary

Embracing the concept of student success, Pearl River Community College has developed a First-Year Experience (FYE) program built on four well-researched FYE components as its Quality Enhancement Plan: pre-term orientation, first-year seminar, early alert and intervention, and professional development and training. The driving question in seeking to develop a quality First-Year Experience was *“What are the most important things students should know to be successful by the end of their first semester?”* Research indicates that students who are engaged in their first year of college demonstrate increased positive relationships with faculty, greater knowledge and use of campus resources, more involvement in campus activities, and better time-management skills than their non-participating peers (Kuh, Cruce, Shoup, & Kinzie, 2008). These findings helped guide the formulation of the mission, goals, and student learning outcomes of the QEP.

Other components include the broad-based institutional process for identifying key issues leading to the selection of the QEP and the development of the new FYE program – *Passport to Success*. The focus of the program includes student learning outcomes based on best practices and demonstrates how this program integrates into PRCC's institutional mission. Institutional capability for implementing the QEP is demonstrated through a well-defined action plan aligned with college resources to include an organizational structure/management plan and a strategic assessment plan for all components of the FYE program.

First-Year Experience Mission			
Enrich the learning environment wherein students ENHANCE self-efficacy skills, ENGAGE with the college culture, and ESTABLISH academic goals.			
Passport to Success - FYE Programmatic Goals			
Learning Outcome 1: <i>Students will understand and apply skills needed to achieve academic success.</i>		Learning Outcome 2: <i>Students will understand and apply motivations for success in college.</i>	
Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>define their personal academic goals</i> • <i>demonstrate an understanding of the impact of course selection on degree/certificate completion</i> • <i>learn to utilize college and support resources</i> 		Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>demonstrate an increased engagement and connection to PRCC</i> • <i>describe benefits of effective engagement within the college community</i> • <i>identify resolutions to common barriers impeding student success</i> 	
FYE Components			
Component 1 New Student Orientation	Component 2 First-Year Seminar Course	Component 3 Early Alert & Intervention	Component 4 Professional Development

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