

Student Achievement Strategy Overview

The College's Student Achievement Strategy creates equity by aligning curriculum content and all college functions to promote every student's progression, completion and readiness to engage in further education. The Student Achievement Strategy is measured through our "Achievement" Core Theme.

Components of the Student Achievement Strategy include: mandatory First Quarter Experience, meta-majors, degree maps, mandatory advising, holistic advising, electronic communication and tracking tools, mandatory orientation, assessment, placement, intentionally sequencing program requirements, financial plan, career plan, life plan, planning guides, and a high-quality learning experience.

Student Achievement Strategy is also referred to as *Guided Pathways* at other colleges and in higher education literature.

Timeline for Implementation:

We have been implementing aspects of the Student Achievement Strategy since the Student Success Summit of 2014. Milestone dates:

- Fall 2016: Implement mandatory First Quarter Experience for all workforce program students and other degree-seeking students who assessed at below college-level English.
- Fall 2016: Implement mandatory Cardinal Pre-Flight and Cardinal Take Off.
- Fall 2016: Implement holistic intake assessment for all students.
- Fall 2016: Finalize meta-majors
- Fall 2016: Review general education outcomes.
- Winter 2017: Develop comprehensive planning guides that include degree maps for each program
- Fall 2017: Implement mandatory First Quarter Experience for all degree-seeking students.
- Fall 2017: Implement mandatory advising checkpoints for all students.
- Fall 2017: Revise general education outcomes.
- Ongoing: Incorporate and institutionalize inclusive pedagogy throughout the curriculum

Persons responsible: Kenneth Lawson, Dave Paul, Laura Cailloux

FAQ's:

Question: What process was followed to adopt the Student Achievement Strategy?

Answer: At the beginning of the 2013-14 academic year, President Keegan called together several taskforces composed of faculty and staff to develop recommendations to improve advising and student success. These taskforces made a combined total of 22 recommendations,

each of which was considered at a Success Summit during Spring 2014. The Summit included roughly 40 faculty and staff from across the district. The Success Summit identified a timeline for implementation of the recommendations and assigned responsibility to the appropriate Vice Presidents. In the fall of 2015, Vice President Lawson invited faculty to serve on district-wide workgroups to plan for implementation. The Student Achievement Strategy is a culmination of this work, which has evolved over time based on input from the faculty workgroups, governance committees, and our campus planning process.

Question: Is the Student Achievement Strategy informed by research? What does the evidence suggest about the potential to improve student achievement?

Answer: Yes, there is a growing body of research that supports the Student Achievement Strategy, which in many respects reflects a guided pathways approach. Colleges and universities that have adopted similar strategies have seen measurable increases in student achievement. Georgia State University, for example, has seen degree conferrals increase by 30% from 2008-2015 ([Click here to see GSU's report delivered at the AACCC Pathways Project](#)). Research supports the idea that a comprehensive approach is necessary to improve student achievement, rather than any one particular strategy. Click here for publications and data from [Complete College America](#) and a study by [Davis Jenkins at the CCRC](#).

Question: How does Student Achievement Strategy ensure rigor, quality, and high academic standards?

Answer: The Student Achievement Strategy helps ensure that students are both prepared and supported to succeed in a challenging educational environment. In part, this is accomplished by creating a logical sequence of courses that allow students to build and develop the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to be successful. Key general education courses—such as Math and English—are offered early in the degree sequence so that students have a solid foundation and are prepared to succeed in more advanced courses. Timely navigational support is also offered to ensure students stay focused on their learning and on track to meet their educational and career goals.

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