
Advising: Go with the Flow

Mississippi Delta Community College



Executive Summary

Mississippi Delta Community College (MDCC) utilized its ongoing planning and evaluation processes as well as campus-wide input to develop a five-year Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focused on improving the quality of advising for Associate of Arts degree-seeking students. More specifically, MDCC's QEP, *Advising: Go with the Flow*, evolved from an analysis of historical data from the institution's strategic planning reports, state performance report cards, national IPEDS feedback comparisons, and institutional stakeholder surveys.

A thorough review of the current literature and advising best practices revealed that a developmental advising process that builds relationships between advisors and students, increases student accountability, and enhances the orientation experience will improve student success. Research data from the NACADA, the Global National Advising Association, and the Center for Community College Student Engagement were instrumental in shaping the key components of *Advising: Go with the Flow*: 1) improve student engagement in the advising process, 2) build stronger relationships between advisors and advisees, 3) implement a hands-on college orientation for incoming students, 4) utilize advising software to track advisor/advisee sessions, 5) provide ongoing professional development for advisors, and 6) employ an Advising Coordinator to assist the QEP Director and QEP Implementation Committee in the successful implementation, evaluation, and sustainability of the plan.

In support of MDCC's QEP, the College has developed an itemized budget to ensure institutional capability for the sustainability of the QEP. Additionally, MDCC has also implemented an appropriate and sustainable evaluation plan to assess the achievement of the QEP including baselines, benchmarks, and a timeline for conducting assessments and analyzing results. As part of the evaluation plan, MDCC is also measuring the impact the QEP has on graduation rates, persistence rates, retention rates, degree progression rates, grade point averages, and indicators from the Community College Survey of Student Engagement.

For additional information on the development or implementation of MDCC's QEP, please contact Allyson Price Lofton, QEP Director and Social Sciences Division Chair, at alofton@msdelta.edu.
