

Write On

Faulkner State Community College
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Executive Summary

Faulkner State Community College, a public two-year institution located in Baldwin County, Alabama, has three campuses: one in Bay Minette, one in Fairhope, and one in Gulf Shores. With an enrollment of over 5,000 students the College is a comprehensive institution committed to educational excellence and to individual and community enhancement. After surveying all college employees and a sample of students and conducting an extensive literature review along with in-house research, the College selected basic writing skills as the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) topic with the overall goals of improving students' written communication skills and improving students' attitudes toward writing. Faulkner State's QEP topic supports the College's Strategic Plan as well as the mission of the College, "to provide an educational environment that promotes development and learning through a wide variety of educational programs and instructional strategies."

The College's QEP, Write On, was designed to improve students' basic writing skills by enhancing their grasp of fundamental grammatical concepts and paragraph writing. To this end, the College established the Write On Labs, multimedia computer labs where instructors will use McGraw-Hill's Connect Learn Smart Achieve (Connect). Connect is a software program that identifies students' grammatical weaknesses and tailors its tutorials accordingly. The Write On Labs will also be staffed with fully qualified, trained tutors who can help guide the students in the use of this software and act as writing coaches for the students in practical writing exercises. The impact of the activities and exercises in Connect, Write On Lab tutoring, and standardized instruction will be assessed with (1) the objective pre-test and post-test developed from the test bank of questions in Blackboard, (2) the student's paragraph written prior to tutoring as compared with the student's paragraph written after tutoring, and (3) the paragraph written as a part of the pre-test to be compared with the paragraph written as a part of the post-test. In addition, the rate at which students successfully complete ENG 093, the developmental writing class, and then ENG 101, the freshman college level class, will be evaluated annually.

Data will be collected annually: (1) to determine the number of students who successfully complete ENG 101 after receiving tutoring by adjunct instructors as recommended by ENG 093 Instructors; (2) to determine the number of students who successfully complete ENG 093 by earning a grade of "C" or higher; (3) to compare the grades of ENG 101 students who successfully complete ENG 093 with grades of ENG 101 students who were not required to take ENG 093; (4) to compare pass rates, withdrawal rates, and failure rates of ENG 093 students and of ENG 101 students who complete ENG 093 to the historical data; (5) to determine the retention rates of students who successfully complete ENG 093 and then earn 60+ semester hours, while maintaining a 2.0+ grade point average.

At the beginning of each semester, ENG 093 students will respond to the Write On Preliminary Survey, questions designed to measure the students' perceptions of English, English classes, writing, and their own writing. At the end of each semester, students will complete the Write On Concluding Survey, questions designed to measure the students' perceptions of the effect of Connect activities, Write On Tutoring, and standardized instruction on their writing. The assessment results and the assessment process itself will be evaluated annually by the Write On QEP Director and the English faculty along with the QEP Oversight Committee and will be used to improve curriculum development at both the division and the individual instructor level. It is our belief that by strengthening our developmental students' command of fundamental grammar and writing concepts, these students will become stronger writers and will be better prepared for college-level writing classes.