

Roane State Community College: QEP Executive Summary



SAILS (Students Achieving Improved Learning Strategies)

The mission of Roane State Community College's QEP is to help students become more efficient, proficient, and self-aware learners so they can be successful in accomplishing their educational goals. The college has embarked upon the SAILS Project (Students Achieving Improved Learning Strategies) to help students achieve increased academic success through application of effective learning strategies and utilization of enhanced academic support services.

Through the planned SAILS initiatives, students will receive instruction in strategies they can use to strengthen the arsenal of tools they bring to the process of learning. The "big guns" in this arsenal will be focused strategies that students will be taught for improving their competency in three core learning concepts: *Read to Understand*, *Listen Actively*, and *Organize for Effectiveness*.

Through increased utilization of study strategies and learning support services inside and outside the classroom, students will demonstrate the following six learning outcomes for increased academic success.

- Students will *read to understand* by achieving competency in three major reading comprehension domains.
- Students will *listen actively* by achieving competency in two major active listening domains.
- Students will *organize for effectiveness* by achieving competency in two major organizational skill domains.
- Students will achieve competency in applying selected learning strategies to the core academic tasks of reading, listening, and organizing.
- Students will demonstrate increased academic success in key gateway courses.
- Students will use academic support services designed to enhance their academic success.

The SAILS project will help students achieve these learning outcomes through implementation of the following four major initiatives.

- Professional development for faculty, particularly related to training in learning strategies selected to improve student competency in reading, listening, and organizing
- Integration into the curriculum of instruction in the selected learning strategies, with particular attention to six gateway courses
- Implementation of free study skills workshops for students in selected programs and a study skills course open to all students
- Enhancement of Learning Center and Library services to support student and faculty awareness and utilization of learning strategies

The SAILS project assessment plan has been designed to provide formative and summative data from direct measures of student learning as well as indirect measures of student perception and behaviors. Assessment will be conducted using both internal and external measures and benchmarks.

The SAILS project is a major institutional priority embedded in the strategic planning and institutional effectiveness processes of the College with the necessary human and financial resources to support its long-term implementation.

For information on the SAILS project, contact Associate Professor Sarah Thomason, QEP Director, at Thomasonsk@roanestate.edu