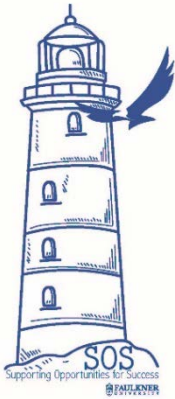


SOS: Supporting Opportunities for Success



Executive Summary

Faulkner University's Quality Enhancement Plan, SOS: Supporting Opportunities for Success, is designed to improve students' retention and success by implementing an academic support program for students. SOS is designed to provide students the academic support they need to be successful in both their individual classes and overall college career. The theme "SOS" evokes the idea that Faulkner's faculty and staff will provide the assistance our students need to reach their academic and career goals. In order to achieve this support of student success, the University centered the QEP on **three interwoven goals**:

- Assisting students in developing skills related to academic persistence;
- Engaging students in the learning process;
- Connecting students to University resources and support personnel who will scaffold them in the development and learning processes.

SOS Programs

Academic Coaching

Academic coaching is an approach to academic support utilized by many institutions of higher learning throughout the U.S. Academic coaching will directly support the University's retention efforts, as the program will involve early intervention of at-risk students. Academic coaches will hold one-to-one weekly meetings with FTFT students who have between a 0 to 2.49 GPA after their first semester. Academic coaching's approach to transformative learning has been proven to be very beneficial at many universities, and Faulkner has developed an implementation method that specifically supports the needs of its students to promote their success.

Supplemental Instruction (SI)

SI is an academic support program designed by the University of Missouri-Kansas City that targets historically difficult courses. SI is a non-remedial approach to learning enrichment that increases student performance and retention by offering regularly scheduled, non-mandatory, out-of-class review sessions. SI sessions are informal seminars in which students review notes, discuss readings, develop organizational tools, and prepare for examinations and are led by SI Leaders, students who have taken the class before and earned a high grade in the course. Students who attend SI sessions statistically earn better grades. Research shows students regularly average one-half to one full letter grade higher than their classmates who choose not to attend.

Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Enhancements

Pop-up Tutoring- Pop-Up Tutoring is an approach that takes the ACE services directly to the students. ACE tutors set up mobile stations in high-traffic areas across campus and students will then be able to drop by the station to ask quick questions and receive quick feedback. This approach is designed to accommodate students that might not otherwise be reached and spread awareness of the ACE services available to them.

SOS Workshops- SOS Workshops are interactive learning experiences that provide students with the skills needed to reach academic success. The ACE staff will host several workshops per year focusing on topics such as goal setting, time management, learning styles, study skills, and test anxiety (areas in which students seem to struggle the most). The ACE director will plan and lead each workshop, but ACE tutors will have active roles. These workshops will directly supplement and enhance information presented to all new incoming students in the required Faulkner Foundations course.

Contact: Breanna Yarbrough, Director of the Center for Assessment, Research, Effectiveness, & Enhancement; byarbrough@faulkner.edu, 334-386-7476