

Using Goal-Setting in the First Year Experience Course to Promote Student Success Through Advising

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Abstract. Consistent with trends in higher education focusing on graduation and retention, professional advisors are being tasked by their home institutions to play a significant role in improving student term-to-term persistence and timely path to graduation. Advisors are asked to track student persistence, course enrollment leading to on-time graduation, and advisee use of resources, such as peer tutoring and career coaching. Student goal setting can serve as the lever for achieving these objectives. By having students develop a clear path to graduation and a list of resources they need to achieve their goals, we promote student success. Attendees will learn how to develop, implement, and assess educational growth plans by leveraging the synergy created between advising and assignments in the first-year experience course.

Speaker Bios

Dr. John Ernst is the founding director of the Thomas More University Success Center and an Associate Adjunct Professor in the Psychology Department. He has won awards in the areas of teaching, research, data analysis, and program development. He earned his Ph.D. in social psychology with a minor in statistics from the University at Buffalo. Currently, he is developing the new professional advising program at Thomas More University in conjunction with the school's quality enhancement program (QEP). In addition to his work in student success, he is an educational consultant and a speaker and trainer in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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Dr. Justin Farr, Ed. D., ATC serves as an Associate Professor and Clinical Education Coordinator in the Health Sciences Department, in addition to being the Interim QEP Director for Thomas More University. Dr. Farr has been teaching in higher education for the past 10 years in the areas of Exercise Science, Sports Administration, Education, and Athletic Training. Dr. Farr is a graduate of Ball State University (B.S.), Western Kentucky University (M.S.), and the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (Ed. D.). Dr. Farr is a resident of Covington, Kentucky where he resides with his wife and son, along with the slew of animals. Extracurriculars include running, officiating baseball, and spending time outside with his son.

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