

Academic Communities at Palm Beach State College

This Academic Community (AC) Initiative is guided by a framework that connects PBSC's Panther Strong 2023 Strategic Plan to the Guided Pathways work facilitated by [Florida Pathways Institute](#) (FPI) situated within [Florida's Student Success Center](#). The FPI directs the statewide guided pathways implementation effort designed to scale pathways to dramatically boost completion and improve the social and economic mobility of graduates.

The development of PBSC's Academic Communities will also provide the critical space and support needed for the [Quality Enhancement Plan](#) (QEP), which is designed to *enhance student success by connecting students to College resources, faculty and staff, and fellow students through Academic Community events.* (QEP 2022-2027)

Noted Influence: Loss Momentum [Framework](#)—**Connection -> Entry -> Progress -> Completion -> Transition** (Adopted from Completion by Design: www.completionbydesign.org/s/article/Understanding-the-Student-Experience-Loss-and-Momentum-Framework.)



Academic Communities

Executive Sponsors

Dr. Peter Barbatis, Vice President Student Services, Enrollment Management, and Interim Provost

Dr. Nika Coleman-Ferrell, Vice President Academic Affairs

Dr. Roger Yohe, Vice President, Academic Innovation and Strategy

Goal:

As division leaders, each executive sponsor will *empower* the academic community leaders and its members (including students) to be *agents of change* and *equip* them with the tools needed to improve student engagement across the College and create opportunities for personalized student-centric support.

Academic Communities Governance

The governing body of the Academic Committees will define the roles, responsibilities, standards, and expectations by which the Academic Communities will operate.

The Overall governance of the Academic Communities involves the following:

- One member from each Academic Community
- The QEP manager
- A vice president who leads and facilitates the Panther Strong Accelerate Completion Strategy Team.

Academic Community Membership

- Leadership:
 - Advising Manager/Lead Advisor
 - Faculty
 - Academic Administrator

- Advising Managers/Lead Advisors
- Faculty
- Academic Deans and Associate Deans
- Students – will see an AC as a “home base” at a large institution
- Advisors
- Student Life and Activities
- Career Center
- Library
- Student Learning Center
- Student Onboarding
- Information Technology

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

(2021/22—2026/27)

Developing Academic Communities (AC) Structure and Function

Goal 1. Develop *student-centric* AC structures by recruiting leaders and members to function within each of the eight Academic Communities based on the College’s eight existing Career Pathways.

Obj. 1. Each AC forms and identifies its membership to hold at least one meeting with the executive sponsors (see sponsors description above).

Obj. 2. Each AC drafts written descriptions to include an identity, purpose, and students served. AC will review pathway webpage and make recommendations to better reflect the communities.

Obj. 3. Each AC will produce a brief summary contrasting how it will function in partnership with the clusters.

Obj. 4. Each AC will use information to engage members by communicating with all students within the respective career pathway before the start of the Spring 2022 Term.

Obj. 5. Each AC will develop and communicate their AC events to all students within its respective career pathway to help build students' sense of belonging to accelerate their success.

Obj. 6. Each AC will develop holistic decision-making partnerships.

Obj. 7. Each AC will identify and implement opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration.

Implementing Academic Communities Student-Centric Engagement Events

Goal 2.

Create an inventory of activities and measures for high-touch, personalized services that strengthen the student support provided by Academic Communities

Obj. 1. Build an inventory of Academic Community touchpoints using momentum strategies provided by the Loss Momentum Framework

Connection -> Entry -> Progress -> Completion -> Transition.

Obj. 2a. Contextualize all PBSC student support services to each Academic Community based on the needs that exist within each Community.

Obj. 2b. identify baseline data to measure student satisfaction with Academic Community support.

Obj. 2c. Identify and measure success of high-touch-personalized student-centric opportunities by each Academic Community.

Goal 3. Collaborate to support Panther Pace (QEP)

Panther PACE Goal:

In order to increase student success, Palm Beach State students will connect to College resources, faculty and staff, and fellow students through Academic Community events.

QEP Outcomes:

1. Students engaging in Academic Community (AC) events will show a 24% increase in levels of college engagement between 2022 and 2027 as measured on the New Student Experience and Student Experience Surveys. Additionally, Palm Beach State will rank in the top 10% in the nation with scores exceeding 61 on "Student-Faculty Interaction" and "Support for Learners" CCSSE benchmarks between 2022 and 2027.
2. Retention rates will increase and demonstrate progress for students who participate and are engaged in student activities as measured against milestones and targets for periods between 2022 and 2027.
3. Faculty and Staff application of Student Development Theory in student interactions will increase after participating in workshops and Professional Learning Groups for measures against milestones and targets between 2022 and 2027.

Obj 1. To assist in the identification, coordination, and execution of AC events that complement students' learning and development throughout their experience at the College.

[Read QEP document here](#)

Goal 4. Examine the course sequence and milestones to fully implement pathways advising maps.

Obj. 1. Establish a process to evaluate, maintain and further develop the pathways advising maps.

Obj. 2. Determine applicability of each Loss Momentum triggers for early alert interventions provided by IRE

Data Management

Outreach and Training

Timetable

Loss Momentum Framework—Connection -> Entry -> Progress -> Completion -> Transition

PBSC's Eight Academic Communities

- Arts, Communication, Design & Humanities
- Business
- Education, Human Services, Social & Behavioral Science
- Health Sciences
- Industry, Manufacturing, Construction & Transportation
- Public Safety
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)
- Discovery (Undecided)