

Academies

The use of Academies at Monroe Community College is both a philosophical approach and a re-designed organizational structure. Academies organize the students' experience so that they are presented with a clear, intentional pathway into and through the College. Academies place high impact learning and meaningful relationships at the center of the students' experience. Students are clustered according to their academic pursuit; in each academy an interdisciplinary team of faculty supports the use of innovative, high impact pedagogy. Students and teaching faculty are partnered with Academy Mentors to provide holistic support, intrusive advising, and early and frequent interventions. Faculty, Student Services professionals and Mentors work collaboratively throughout the duration of the students' time at the college. This cross divisional, interdisciplinary model helps students more readily connect with faculty, staff and peers who no longer work in isolation from each other.

Student cohorts are intentionally guided through goal setting, career and academic planning and personal development activities. Within the Academy model, student milestones are regularly acknowledged and celebrated. Students participate in mandatory orientation, required high impact experiences and are monitored with an early alert system. Students do not necessarily go through all of their coursework as a single cohort; however opportunities for contextualized learning and cohorted experiences are possible. Regular communication and collaboration between professional staff and teaching faculty enhance meaningful connections with each student in the academy and among MCC colleagues.

Roles within the Academy Model include:

Academy Mentor:

The Academy Mentor is the primary contact for students in the academy. Each Mentor carries a "caseload" of students, tracks them, contacts them, and connects them to needed services and support. With these responsibilities, the Mentor works collaboratively with service offices throughout the college to connect students to services and necessary sources of information. The Mentor uses an "intrusive advising" approach to guide students throughout the duration of their experience at MCC and proactively helps students develop a personalized 4-6 semester academic plan which is revisited on a regular basis.

The Mentor is a liaison to the faculty advisors, teaching faculty and High Impact faculty within the academy and assists faculty with "technical" aspects of registration processes etc. The Mentor supports program registration events if needed. The Mentor communicates regularly with faculty to ascertain

and resolve student concerns, and to track student progress to determine if support interventions are needed.

Academy Mentor continued...

The Mentor connects with the High Impact Specialist to understand course offerings and consult about scheduling needs so that students can be easily registered into HIP courses. The Mentor potentially teaches a contextualized College Success course for the academy. There may be more than one Mentor per academy based on the number of students enrolled.

Academy Faculty Coordinator:

Each academy has an Academy Faculty Coordinator who works closely with the Academy Mentor regarding student issues, HIPS master schedule and academy specific courses. The Faculty Coordinator communicates curricular updates to mentors and communicates academy information to faculty, facilitating active faculty involvement in Academy activities.

High Impact Practices Faculty Specialist:

There is one HIPS Faculty specialist who serves all academies. This faculty member is a liaison to the TCC and works collaboratively across the college to implement, scale and manage HIPS at the College. The HIPS specialist works directly with departments and faculty to investigate and develop Academy specific HIPS