

Example Department Blueprint

Academic Centers for Excellence (ACE)

(1) **ACE Mission Statement:** The Academic Centers for Excellence (ACE) offer all students at the University of South Carolina an opportunity to learn and apply the skills needed to succeed in college. ACE provides free academic success coaching, writing consultations, math tutoring, and a variety of other resources to help students at Carolina reach their academic goals.

(2)

(3) Goal #1: Increase student persistence and academic success by expanding and improving academic coaching and academic deficiency initiatives.

(4) Contributes to Division Goal #1; Outcome B

(5) **Initiative 1A:** Academic Standards/Academic Recovery Initiative - ACE will provide academic coaching/mentoring sessions for all first-year students who are academically deficient (below a 2.0 GPA) for the Fall semester; students are required to participate during the Spring semester to continue enrollment for the next Fall semester.

(6) 1A. Key Performance Indicators (KPI):

(a) In Planning blueprint (beginning of the year):

- number of students who are identified as academically deficient;
- number of academically deficient students who attend ACE sessions;
- number of students who continue enrollment after participating in ACE sessions;
- number of students who are suspended for academic reasons;
- change in these numbers from previous years.

(b) In Performance blueprint (End-of-Year Update) KPIs:

- 218 first-year students were identified as academically deficient (based on GPA and/or hours completed) in the Fall semester.
- 80% of 218 freshmen completed ACE appointments;
 - 140 students were eligible to continue enrollment
 - 78 students were suspended
 - academic suspensions were reduced by 40% under the new policy.

(c) Analysis in Performance Blueprint to contribute to Department's Executive Summary: This ACE initiative achieved the target goal of improving the retention rate of freshmen who were academically deficient after the Fall semester. The 20% who did not participate most often indicated week-day time constraints due to employment as their reason for non-participation; next Fall, ACE will survey students' interest/ability to participate in academic mentoring/coaching sessions on Saturday afternoons and offer sessions at these times if students indicate interest/availability.

(7) 1A. KPI Method: Registrar will identify students who are academically deficient after Fall semester; TutorTrac will provide records (number) of ACE appointments made and kept; Registrar will identify enrollment status of students for semester following ACE intervention; ACE office will keep records to provide year to year comparisons of participation and results.

Repeat for each Department Goal and Initiative.