

	STUDENT RETENTION PLAN		
	DATE OF LAST REVISION	DATE OF LAST REVIEW	COE SELF STUDY REFERENCE
	07/08/2025	12/19/2024	STANDARD 10A STUDENT SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

The primary goal of the Student Retention Plan is to foster a learning environment that supports student success, defined as academic achievement, program progression, and preparedness for employment in the student's chosen industry. This plan outlines targeted initiatives and best practices to enhance student retention and success throughout the student educational journey.

Key focus areas include early engagement and orientation, providing academic support and advising, cultivating the campus community, and using data-driven decision-making to continually improve the effectiveness of the retention and success strategies. By implementing a comprehensive, student-centric approach, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Knoxville will empower students to achieve their academic and career goals while strengthening the institution's reputation and responsiveness to the needs of the local community.

BUDGETARY RESOURCES:

Funding is obtained through a designated portion of state appropriations. The budget is reviewed and updated annually during the college's budget hearings.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES:

Student retention rates indicate how an institution meets the needs of its students. The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Knoxville (TCAT Knoxville) follows its student completion rates and reports this information annually to accreditation, state, and federal agencies. TCAT Knoxville recognizes that students may not complete their programs for various personal reasons, as well as due to institutional factors like engagement, academic challenges, and campus climate.

Early Engagement and Orientation:

To address these issues, TCAT Knoxville provides new student orientation programs, provides campus tours, and has available academic counselors to guide students from the start. New student orientation programs acclimate students to campus resources, academic expectations, and student support services that are also listed in the online student handbook located at <https://tcatknoxville.edu/current-students/student-handbookcatalog>, which are available to every student. Additionally, academic counselors work with students, providing guidance on program selection, financial aid, and career goals.

Academic Support and Advising:

The college faculty provides academic support through hands-on projects, work-based learning, and proactive advising to help students succeed in their courses and align their programs with career goals. Counselors work closely with students to address their individual needs and challenges. Career counseling and job placement assistance are also offered to help students align their academic programs with their career aspirations.

In addition, student services provide counseling, disability support, veteran services, and other assistance to help students through their college experience.

Student Engagement and Community Building:

TCAT Knoxville cultivates a vibrant campus life through organizations, activities, career fairs, and community events to foster a sense of belonging and connect students with resources before they fall behind. Student success is recognized and celebrated.

Gather Feedback on the Student Experience:

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Knoxville utilizes a comprehensive student exit survey as part of its commitment to continuous improvement. This survey is administered to all graduating and non-completing students as they exit their academic programs. The survey prompts students to provide feedback on their education, reason for departure, employment information, and services of the college.

EVALUATION:

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Knoxville takes a comprehensive, data-driven approach to annually evaluating and enhancing its student support initiatives. The college systematically reviews student feedback from its exit survey as well as performance data, including completion, placement, and licensure rates, from the Council on Occupational Education (COE) annual report. This holistic assessment helps the college identify potential barriers to student success and informs the ongoing development and refinement of its Student Retention Plan. By aligning these efforts with COE benchmarks, the college can track the effectiveness of its retention initiatives and make data-driven improvements to better support students throughout their academic journeys, ensuring learners have access to the resources and services needed to persist, graduate, and transition into rewarding careers.

STAKEHOLDERS WITH WHOM THE PLAN IS SHARED

TCAT Knoxville shares its program completion, placement, and licensure information annually with faculty and staff. The plan is also available to all employees and students online at www.tcatknoxville.edu.