

QEP Components (Overarching Design)

The primary components of The Freshman Encounter: **e³4life** program are:

The Freshman Academy, a one-semester, one credit-hour, two contact hour course designed to introduce freshmen students to the Lawson State Community College experience. The course emphasizes student development in their commitment to academic success and focuses on the acceptance of individual responsibility in their academic, social and personal pursuits. It explains college services; examines college policies and procedures; explores educational goals and career plans; helps students identify their learning styles; provides seminars, workshops, guest speakers; and provides a variety of out-of-class experiences to impact the educational process and to improve their success skills. The Freshman Academy is designed to engage students in the learning process, equip students with knowledge, skills, resources and experiences and empower students with a sense of intellectual curiosity about the learning process and its impact on their academic, social and personal choices.

The Faculty & Staff Academies are designed to provide a series of seminars, workshops and activities that are focused on the teaching and learning process and how to engage students in that process. The Academy is designed to enhance teaching impact, knowledge and effectiveness to impact all students but particularly freshman students. The Academy will allow faculty and staff working within the Freshman Academy to reflect on their teaching styles and how best to incorporate successful engagement strategies in the teaching and learning process. Those involved in the Faculty/Staff Academy will gain the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in fostering student learning and enabling the College to meet its goals. All instructors within the Freshman Academy are required to successfully complete a specialized Faculty Academy. The academy focuses not only on instructional techniques and student engagement techniques but also teaches the Freshman Academy curriculum (step-by-step). The academy also serves to motivate and excite faculty about teaching the Freshman Academy. Both academies will be housed in the Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning (CTEL).

The **SPACE** Center (Student Persistence through Assistance and Collaborative Efforts) is a comprehensive center designed to provide a structured means of ensuring that students are aware of and utilize the services and assistance provided by the College. Services include tutoring, counseling, academic advisement, mentoring, technology-based services, student financial services assistance, academic support activities and programming, non-academic support and referrals, faculty/staff awareness activities, collaboration and resource sharing, and special programs and community-based activities. These supportive services enhance persistence, student learning, and overall student success. Counselors and other College personnel proactively assist students in utilizing these services. The **SPACE** Center operates in collaboration with the Freshman Academy and the Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning (CTEL).