



Triton College

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Institutional Overview

Triton College serves District 504 in western Cook County, which includes approximately 63 square miles, 25 demographically and culturally diverse towns and villages, and a population of over 300,000. We offer a variety of educational offerings, including transferable arts and sciences and career education, adult education, professional and economic development services, continuing education and workforce development training. Through its institutional strategy, the college actively engages with its community to develop innovative programs and services designed to satisfy the unique needs of its increasingly diverse constituents.

Triton College is dedicated to serving its students by helping them achieve success. This is the foundation of the college's mission, and each of our employees furthers this mission every day through his or her work.

Through the collaboration of faculty, staff and the local community, we developed a seven-year institutional strategy (FY2015-2021) designed to guide our work and the fulfillment of our mission:

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Increase College Readiness

2

Improve College Completion

3

Close Skill Gaps

Whether teaching microbiology, improving our facilities and grounds, advising students regarding financial aid, greeting students at the welcome desk, or undertaking any other of the countless roles filled by faculty and staff, the daily work and collaboration of Triton College's employees drive the achievement of the above strategy and further our mission of student success.



Increase College Readiness

By 2020, 80% of students entering Triton College will be prepared for college-level work. To achieve this goal, we are focusing on six distinct actions:

- Partner with in-district high schools to offer college readiness coursework to students prior to their graduation from high school;
- Increase student-to-student mentorship opportunities through programs that target low-performing K-14 populations;
- Develop a comprehensive dual enrollment program;
- Improve and expand partnerships with local and regional educational institutions at the K-12 and university level;
- Improve service for internal and external constituents; and
- Implement and scale the Math Up program, a college readiness model designed to decrease the number of semesters that college-readiness students must spend in non-credit coursework.

Each of these activities is designed to reach students prior to or immediately upon entering Triton College to ensure that they have the skills necessary to enroll in college-level coursework and succeed. Through the implementations of these actions, Triton College seeks to lead a coalition of educational and community partnerships that create a collaborative educational footprint in the local community and address inhibitors that impact student access or equity.



Improve College Completion

Triton College will improve college completion by identifying and scaling best practices and restructuring support services with an emphasis on at-risk and low-performing populations and first-year students. To achieve this goal, we are focusing on five completion-centered actions:

- Improve graduate success tracking;
- Develop Guided Pathways, including:
 - Researching, developing, and implementing pathways to completion for academic programs; and
 - Implementing comprehensive academic planning;
- Develop a research-based first year experience;
- Enhance tutoring services; and
- Scale the Peer Mentoring Collaborative and COL102.

Each of these activities is designed to provide our diverse student population with academic offerings and support services that help them complete their academic goals. Through the implementations of these actions, Triton College seeks to provide students with start-to-finish guidance and support from peers, faculty and staff, implement strategies that offer accelerated timelines to obtain academic credentials, close the student achievement gap by identifying and meeting the needs of at risk and low performing populations, and redesign institutional processes to remove barriers to student completion.



Close Skill Gaps

Triton College will close skill gaps in the occupational workforce by aligning college programming and curriculum with regional and global workforce needs and by developing educational pathways that include accelerated and competency-based approaches. To achieve this goal, we are focused on five specific actions:

- Create opportunities for direct interaction with business community to ensure consistent feedback on industry alignment and enhance collaboration with the local occupational community;
- Increase student internship opportunities;
- Imbed formal Soft Skills Training into the student experience that is designed to both prepare students for a professional environment and reflect their preparedness to potential employers;
- Identify gaps in career and technical education curriculum; and
- Enhance and expand online course offerings.

Each of these activities is designed to ensure that Triton College offers programming that both meets the needs of the regional and global workforce, and positions its graduates to achieve their educational and occupational goals upon completion of their time at Triton. Through the implementations of these actions, Triton College seeks to engage employers and industry leaders in cooperative partnerships that create educational programming in alignment with workforce needs, coordinate a coalition of business, government and industry leaders that drives regional economic development, and create stackable credentials, earn-and-learn models, and competency-based programming that meets regional and global workforce needs.

Conclusion:

Triton College's institutional strategy to increase College Readiness, improve College completion and Close Skill Gaps will guide our work and produce measurable results that reflect ongoing improvement. This collaborative effort with our community drives the achievement of the college's mission by supporting student success through institutional and academic excellence and providing a student-centered, lifelong learning environment for our diverse community.

