The ACC Faculty Experience:

Pathways for Professional Practice as Career Faculty



The student experience is molded, guided and nurtured by the faculty of the institution in which they commune and learn together. Students enter their academic pathways through a series of supports and services introduced by trained staff, but once admitted and duly advised, they will spend more than 90 percent of their college career engaged with faculty in and out of the classroom. Our work in redesigning the faculty experience at Austin Community College will focus on creating opportunities for all faculty to thrive and grow in their disciplines, their teaching practice and in service to the institution and the communities we serve. The timeline below is a conceptual model of what a 30-plus-year career as an ACC faculty member could look like, and provides a draft framework for ongoing discussion and analysis as we envision the Austin Community College Faculty Experience.

We found that faculty behaviors and attitudes affect students profoundly, which suggests that faculty members may play the single-most important role in student learning. Because faculty play a critical component of the collegiate experience, colleges and universities need to find ways (perhaps new ways) to support and reward faculty in their teaching role. (Faculty do Matter: The Role of College Faculty in Student Learning and Engagement, Umbach and Wawrzynski, 2003)

