Program Abstract
The First-Year Advising and Retention Center provides academic advising to all first-year students and undeclared students with less than 30 credit hours using a holistic advising model. Advisors in the center not only teach students how to select courses and follow degree requirements, but advisors place students at the center of advisement to foster developmental growth linked to the social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs of students. Therefore, it is typical for advisors to have conversations with students about behaviors related to note taking, studying, sleeping, eating and exercising as well as their involvement in leadership and community opportunities, all of which influence their developmental growth. To make certain students are meeting the demands of their first year in college, the center implemented a first-year advising requirement, which mandates students to meet with advisors on a monthly basis or a minimum of three times during the first semester of enrollment. This requirement ensures appropriate follow-up and continued communication with new students as they progress academically and socially. The center also houses the first-year experience and the learning communities programs as well as the first-year common reading, service learning, major and career exploration FOCUS programs and the honor society for first-year students, Alpha Lambda Delta.