

# IMPLEMENTING ACCOUNTABILITY GROUPS: A THEORY INFORMED TIMELINE



AUBURN  
Office of the Provost  
*Academic Support*

## ACCOUNTABILITY GROUPS – A GATEWAY IDEA

2023

- Informed by ICLCA Presentations by Purdue (2023; 2024) and University of South Carolina (2024)
- Developed guide for independently running AGs and disseminated to AU students, faculty, and staff through outreach and consulting

## BRIDGING INTENTIONS WITH ACTION

FALL  
2024

- Campus partners expressed desire for support; Sought and incorporated stakeholder feedback from AU advisors
- Logistic decisions of when and where groups could meet
- Budget projections; Applied for Bright Idea Seed Grant from the University to support wages for 2 years
- Anticipated questions to inform marketing and promotion materials – proactive FAQs for advisors, students, and employees

## ALIGNING THEORY, OUTCOMES, & ASSESSMENT

SPRING  
2025

- Student-centered outcomes rooted in theory, empirical support, the university QEP, and strategic plan; **References:** [https://aub.ie/AU\\_ASAG](https://aub.ie/AU_ASAG)
- Peer educators are students staff selected, trained, & designated by a campus professional to offer educational goals (Newton & Ender 2010). AG peer educators lead the focused study sessions and will develop NACE competencies as a result of their employment (National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2022).
- Students who attend 10 or more sessions are anticipated to:
  - Increase their sense of belonging benefitting student retention and persistence (Murphy et al., 2020)
  - Ease their transition and acclimation to university (Schlossberg, 2011)
  - Increase their understandings of how they can thrive at college (Schreiner, 2010; Yeager & Walton, 2011)

## NEW INITIATIVE IMPLEMENTED

FALL  
2025

- **Orientation Programming Trial Sessions:** Held within first two weeks of the new term, this trial session introduced and oriented students to the new service and built familiarity with available resources within the office.
- **Peer Educator Training and Leadership Model:** Conducted peer educator training informed by semester-long skill and resource learning outcomes. This peer-to-peer leadership model has proven effective in increasing student engagement and accountability (Kaelber, Stewart, Black, Seyfer, & Marner, 2009).
- **Targeted Outreach to Incoming Students:** Engaged first-year and transfer students through student affairs efforts to connect to support services and peer leaders **within** their first eight weeks of school.
- **Attendance Tracking and Accountability:** Captured student attendance electronically, enabling real-time tracking and follow-up.
- **Encouraging Participation:** Promoted attendance through peer-to-peer reminders, faculty and staff endorsements, and personalized communication. **Referrals:** <https://aub.ie/referral>