



BELLARMINI UNIVERSITY
Quality Enhancement Plan

Liberal Education in an International Context: Preparing Students for a Globally Competitive World

Overview

The objective of Bellarmine University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is to internationalize the student learning experience. The two major goals are to 1) enhance international curricular offerings and 2) increase student and faculty participation in international experiences.

Goals, Initiatives, and Student Learning Outcomes

Three initiatives address enhancing curricular offerings (Goal One) and the remaining three initiatives target an increase in student and faculty participation in international experiences (Goal Two). Thus our plan is organized around enhancing student learning in an international context inside and outside the classroom. We have identified faculty development as a critical strategy for attaining these curricular and experiential goals. This emphasis on faculty development also reflects best practices in internationalization on university campuses.

Each initiative is tied to one or more of four student learning outcomes, which reflect knowledge, skills, and attitudinal types of global competencies. As a result of the QEP, Bellarmine students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast similarities and differences among peoples, religions, customs, arts, and cultures of the world;
- Demonstrate basic communication skills in a foreign language;
- Demonstrate an improved understanding of geography; and
- Apply a global perspective to analyses of social, economic, political, and environmental issues.

Assessment

A variety of quantitative and qualitative assessment tools will be used to measure achievement of student learning outcomes. These include student engagement surveys, measures of intercultural development, portfolio evidence, and nationally-normed tests of academic achievement in key areas. The implementation and assessment of the QEP is integrated into Bellarmine's Continuous Assessment and Improvement Cycle, our central mechanism for institutional effectiveness. The QEP is a feature of our strategic planning, and its initiatives are included in the university Operational Plan, which outlines the strategies, timeline, and financial commitments necessary for achieving strategic and Vision 2020 goals. Annual assessment data, also tied to strategic planning, will reflect QEP-related outcomes and be analyzed as part of our annual assessment process. These data will ultimately drive budget decisions as implementation of our plan moves forward.

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