

INSTITUTION: Gadsden State Community College

QEP TITLE: Technology Engagement across the Curriculum (TEC Initiative)

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OVERVIEW OF THE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Focus:

The Quality Enhancement Plan for Gadsden State Community College utilizes technology across the curriculum to engage students in learning in four major areas: (1) students connecting with other students; (2) students connecting with faculty; (3) students connecting with their curriculum, courses, and content areas; and (4) students connecting to the institution. Technology Engagement across the Curriculum (TEC) serves as GSCC's commitment to enable its students to harness available technology, utilizing it in a variety of electronic sources applicable both inside and outside the classroom. The TEC Initiative will encourage students not only to gather information and evaluate its authenticity and usefulness but also to communicate and share their findings with fellow students, as well as their instructors, both orally and in written form using multiple formats.

The QEP is designed to prepare students for success whether they transfer to other two- or four-year institutions or complete their training for degree or certificate programs at GSCC. By providing students with opportunities to engage in the learning process through technology, students can develop a proficiency that enables them to function competently in a technology-based academic or work environment.

Institutional Capability for the Initiation and Continuation of the Plan:

Gadsden State has maintained multiple grants and managed special programs throughout its history. The experienced faculty and staff are well-equipped to handle the day-to-day oversight of the QEP. The budget provides sufficient funds for the personnel, assessment tools, and technology to maintain and continue the TEC Initiative. Administrative support will enable the appointed members of the Implementation Team to function and adequately fulfill their duties throughout the five-year plan and beyond.

Assessment of the Plan:

Faculty in all disciplines will work towards implementing technology-based activities and/or projects that will prompt students to become engaged learners. Within disciplines, divisions, and programs, instructors will develop rubrics or other means to assess students' ability to (1) use specific technology to gain computer competency; (2) gather and synthesize information from a variety of electronic sources; and (3) learn to communicate their findings with others. Additionally, standardized assessment tools including iSkills™ by Educational Testing Services, the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS), and the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE) will be administered throughout the five-year period. A combination of these quantitative and qualitative assessment measures will allow the College to determine students' abilities as they actively engage in acquiring the basic skills (i.e. computer competency, information literacy, and communication aptitude) necessary for success at four-year institutions and in the work place.

Broad Based Involvement of the College Community:

From the initial call for ideas and possible topics, the QEP Committee has made a concerted effort to canvas all campuses, including every department, division, and program. Members have welcomed ideas from staff, faculty, and administration. The Committee has attempted to build a consensus among its members who, in turn, have solicited input from their respective areas. Gadsden State's website and internal home page have been utilized to disseminate information to the college community, to seek ideas and suggestions as the plan was being developed, and to promote interest and participation. The final product incorporates a significant aspect of the College's mission, that of enriching the educational experiences of all Gadsden State students.