



Piedmont Community College Quantitative Reasoning for You



The purpose of Piedmont Community College's (PCC's) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is to improve students' quantitative reasoning skills by implementing mathematics across the curriculum, using problem-solving and real-life applications. **Quantitative Reasoning for You (QR4U)**, the title given to this initiative, represents a significant forward step at Piedmont Community College in addressing issues of student learning and success in mathematics. QR4U will employ mathematics across the curriculum as a mechanism to teach and/or apply QR activities in targeted courses, even in disciplines which are not immediately considered to be quantitative, e.g. English, history, and art.

Topic selection is the result of broad-based input from College faculty and staff, who indicated that student skill development in the basic subjects of math, reading, and writing were priorities. Institutional research showed that math skills of entering students allowed less than 8% to place into college-level work while reading and writing placement into college-level courses was higher. A state-level initiative to redesign developmental math made focusing on those courses unwise for PCC's QEP topic. The ensuing discussion resulted in focusing on strengthening students' quantitative reasoning skills across the curriculum as the topic of choice.

The QR4U Steering Committee established two QR4U goals. Goal 1, to implement mathematics across the curriculum using problem-solving and real-life applications, has two outcomes associated with it. Goal 2, to improve students' quantitative reasoning skills, includes eight outcomes. A comprehensive assessment plan uses multiple assessments for each outcome.

QR4U implementation is scheduled in three "waves", each with components of faculty development, QR4U activities in targeted courses, and assessment. Wave 1 begins in Spring 2013, Wave 2 in Spring 2014, and Wave 3 in Spring 2015. Adequate and affordable resources of \$130,000 to \$145,000 per year are being budgeted to support QR4U. A full-time Director, QEP (QR4U) reports to the Vice President, Instruction and Student Development.

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