

A Community of Writers within the Disciplines

A Community of Writers within the Disciplines reflects Texas A&M University-Central Texas's (TAMUCT) mission to provide high quality, rigorous, and innovative educational experiences that meets a diverse and variously prepared student population at the intersection of their academic, professional, and personal goals.

Students, faculty, and staff elected *A Community of Writers within the Disciplines* as our QEP after carefully weighing three proposals prepared by a diverse group of university members. The QEP plan task-force selected writing as our focus with the understanding that attention to writing would most directly engage and prepare our considerable nontraditional student population. A focus on disciplinary writing would also effectively support the growing number of more traditionally aged college students.

The plan calls for TAMUCT to foster a culture that develops student writing through deep learning experiences and that supports a faculty intent on offering students a range of writing experiences. The goal is to graduate students with the knowledge and skills they need to communicate through writing in a variety of contexts.

Specifically, the QEP focuses on:

- Writing as it occurs within the disciplines on the TAMUCT campus,
- Ensuring every program has a course early in the curriculum that introduces students to writing in that discipline, and a class late in the curriculum that provides students a chance to demonstrate mastery of writing in that discipline,
- Exposing faculty to the best practices for teaching the various kinds of writing within a discipline,
- Preparing faculty to serve as advocates for high-impact writing practices in the classroom,
- Aligning writing tutors and librarians to the unique requirements in each discipline,
- Providing occasions for faculty, faculty and students, and faculty, students, and other stakeholders to discuss writing in the discipline and in the parts of society that discipline serves.

In addition to the discipline-specific writing enhancement, the plan also introduces to our campus experiential transcripts. These transcripts record and reveal the reflective efforts TAMUCT creates so that students can most fully engage their own development as writers. Such experiences intend to aid students as they strive to transfer the skills they learn in the classroom to their broader development as professionals in a field or, more generally, citizens in our society.

A Community of Writers within the Disciplines participates in the university-wide continuous improvement program by employing a series of measures, which includes the application of the Written Communication VALUE Rubric to student course and experiential transcript submissions faculty development participation, perception surveys, and classroom observations.

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