

Quality Enhancement Plan - *Improving Student Learning through Writing across the Curriculum* Southern University and A&M College

Southern University and A & M College is committed to the development and implementation of a Quality Enhancement Plan, which reflects the mission of the University and positively impacts student learning. Student learning is central, as evidenced by the mission and purpose of the University as well as the core values of the University.

The mission of Southern University and A&M College, an Historically Black, 1890 land-grant institution, is to provide opportunities for a diverse student population to achieve a high-quality, global educational experience, to engage in scholarly, research, and creative activities, and to give meaningful public service to the community, the state, the nation, and the world so that Southern University graduates are competent, informed, and productive citizens. From this mission are drawn the core values and outcomes of the Institution. One of these outcomes states that graduates will communicate effectively using skills that apply to English in general as well as to specific English language modalities at the college level of competence. Southern University's Writing across the Curriculum initiative will facilitate the University's efforts in demonstrating the mission, the purpose, and the institutional outcomes in action. The Quality Enhancement Plan will become an integral part of the strategic planning process and will be sustained with adequate resources including personnel, facilities, funding, and materials.

Southern University is committed to developing and implementing a writing across the curriculum program that will be an integral part of campus operations. The program, when fully implemented, will involve every student who matriculates through a degree granting program at Southern University. In keeping with the mission of Southern University, *Improving Student Learning Through Writing Across the Curriculum* will empower students to become more self sufficient in their writing while enabling faculty to use writing as a means of learning in their content areas and to develop graduates with effective communication skills. The purpose of this level of implementation is to insure that every student who receives a degree from Southern University will be competent in college level writing. The University will design and implement the *Improving Student Learning Through Writing Across the Curriculum* program as a means to engage students in the learning process and equip them with the requisite knowledge and skills to be successful throughout their matriculation at the University and into their post-academic lives.

Improving Student Learning Through Writing Across the Curriculum is directly linked to the mission of the college. The goals of *Improving Student Learning Through Writing Across the Curriculum* are twofold:

1. To help students become more self sufficient writers
2. To enable faculty utilization of writing in the improvement of student learning

The development of the QEP was a broad based endeavor. Eighteen focus groups, known campus wide as the "QEP Road Show," were conducted during the spring 2007 semester. Participants indicated that students who attend the University do not communicate at a level that will accommodate their success in academia or the workforce. They are academically and professionally underprepared in English communication skills, especially writing. This idea was supported by the evidence. Internal assessments of student writing, external assessments of student writing, student's own perceptions of engagement in writing, and feedback from business and industry all suggested deficiencies in students' writing skills. Consequently, *Improving Student Learning through Writing across the Curriculum* will utilize attitudinal, behavioral, and cognitive activities to help students acquire the skills to be competent, college-level writers. The program will be designed to assist the student in navigating "The Write Path to Success." The outcomes of *Improving Student Learning through Writing across the Curriculum* will be improved student learning, increased retention and completion rates, and the graduation of competent, college level writers.