



Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary Preparing Students for an Interconnected World

In accordance with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges' Core Principle 2.12 and Comprehensive Standard 3.3.2, Texas A&M University-Commerce selected a topic for the QEP. The topic and proposal evolved from a five year process, involving narrowing the topic options, intensive and broad-based campus involvement and discovery, and selection and development of a final topic. Overall, the process revealed that faculty, staff, and students agree: global competencies are essential; but are not yet fully mastered at A&M-Commerce. The A&M-Commerce QEP focuses on *Preparing Students for an Interconnected World*. The QEP is focused on intentional structures and processes to enhance and improve students' global competency through two programs: Global Scholar and Global Fellow. These programs will enable the institution to strengthen its focus on global initiatives, better preparing students for an interconnected world. The objectives of the programs have been matched with the student learning outcomes (SLO's) which have been drawn from best practices and the overarching goals of the QEP.

The Global Scholar Program encourages student engagement in global activities, as it also creates distinction and recognition for engagement in specialized instruction (global courses) and experiences (global events and travel). The Global Fellow Program encourages faculty and staff engagement in global activities, enables distinction and recognition for engagement in global activities, and creates and maintains a diversified and multi-disciplinary team with specialized global experiences and resources. Overall, the Global Fellow Program is peripheral to the Global Scholar Program, with a focus clearly on creating and maintaining an environment where achievement of the SLOs will be possible. Together, the Global Scholar and Global Fellow Programs clearly provide opportunities for students, faculty, and staff that support the mission, vision, and guiding principles of A&M-Commerce. Through promotion and focus on student learning outcomes and the environment that enables and supports those outcomes, A&M-Commerce will intentionally make broad improvements to the quality of the students' educational experience.

Although A&M-Commerce has a longstanding commitment to global initiatives, education, and development of global competencies, the QEP presents a well-conceived plan with strategic attention to bringing together many disjointed efforts to form a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach. The QEP is based on sound theoretical underpinnings and will encompass the cultivation of global knowledge, including the ability to apply that knowledge, and engagement. A&M-Commerce has involved a wide variety of constituents from across the university, and has the institutional capability to implement the QEP.

A&M-Commerce has committed a significant budget, over a six-year period which represents a serious institutional commitment to better preparation of students for an interconnected world. Funding for human and physical resources, marketing and communication, technology components, training and development, ongoing assessments, and recognition and distinction efforts are included in the budget. Following a successful reaffirmation, A&M-Commerce began implementing the QEP according to its timeline. With a standing committee and the QEP Director, Dr. Shonda Gibson, collaborations among existing campus entities, services, and resources allow the university to execute, promote, support, organize, and assess the QEP.

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