

INTEGRATIVE LEARNING: FAITH, VOCATION, AND CORE VALUES

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Lee University is a Christ-centered, liberal arts institution whose mission is to develop students' knowledge, appreciation, understanding, ability and skills in ways which will prepare them to be responsible citizens in a complex world (Mission statement). **The Quality Enhancement Plan will contribute to the mission by creating pathways of integrative learning that lead students to an understanding of and commitment to Christian faith and vocation through ethical action, redemptive service, and responsible citizenship in the community, the church and the world.** The QEP will bring together already existing high-impact learning experiences to create learning pathways from the first year through the final capstone, integrating academic knowledge with the understanding of faith and vocation.

Lee has a required freshman seminar that introduces students to the institution's core values, a required cross-cultural experience that allows students to study abroad, and a required capstone course in the majors, intended to be the culminating experience in the integration of faith and learning. For the past decade, Lee has also had a service-learning requirement of 80 hours. The QEP is a response to institutional data suggesting that the purpose of these powerful practices has not been sufficiently articulated to students through their first-year experience or integrated with the academic disciplines in ways that lead students to a clear understanding of faith and vocation. The goals of the QEP will be accomplished through three integrated projects.

Project 1: Integration of GNST 101, ANTH 200, and RELG 200, and to create a first-year sequence that introduces and explains the core values (LEEU 101, LEEU 102A and 102B).

Project 2: Creation of experiential learning opportunities and integrative course syllabi that apply academic knowledge to core values including applications across disciplines.

Project 3: Revision of capstone courses to reinforce and implement core values.

Project 1 focuses on redesigning three existing courses to form a year-long introduction to the core values of Christian faith and vocation. The freshman seminar, offered first semester, will emphasize these values, making students aware of their centrality to Lee's mission. The existing 200-level courses of Foundations of Benevolence and the Cross-Cultural Seminar will be redesigned and offered as linked courses across the second semester of the first year. Students will remain in a learning cohort through these three courses, which will be revised to reinforce the values of redemptive service and responsible citizenship. With the freshman seminar, students will begin to build an electronic portfolio which will expand throughout their majors, including evidence of their application of academic knowledge to the core values.

Project 2 focuses on the further development of core values through the major curriculum, and the faculties of each discipline have developed learning pathways that explicitly apply academic knowledge to ethical action, redemptive service, and responsible citizenship, emphasizing service learning, cross-cultural experiences, research, and internships as appropriate. Major programs will attempt to incorporate 50% of the students' required service hours within the discipline and will create a common experience and reflection for all cross-cultural experiences.

Project 3 focuses on redesigning the senior capstones. Capstone experiences will be required for every major discipline and will bring together reflections on the students' portfolios with further emphasis on the integration of their disciplines with the core value of Christian faith and vocation. Capstone students will write a paper which conveys extensive evidence of a personal response to the issues raised in the course and to the Lee experience.