

Central to the vision of Texas Wesleyan University is “the understanding that professional employers seek individuals who have attained the essential skills of critical thinking, analytical reasoning and creative problem solving” (*Texas Wesleyan University Undergraduate Catalog*, 2011, p. 20). *Think On!: Thinking Critically* is Texas Wesleyan’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), an institutional effort to enhance student learning by improving students’ critical thinking skills.

The QEP has two goals: (1) to graduate students proficient in critical thinking and (2) to enhance faculty development to create a culture of critical thinking at the university. In order to implement these goals, a definition of critical thinking was developed. **Students who think critically:**

- **Investigate multiple sources of information**
- **Analyze, synthesize, and evaluate that information**
- **Recognize perspectives, assumptions, and biases**
- **Are objective, logical, systematic, and creative**
- **Reach a conclusion, make decisions, create knowledge, or solve problems**

Based on this definition, Texas Wesleyan will develop faculty to infuse critical thinking into classes in order to achieve the following QEP student learning outcomes:

1. **Investigate and evaluate multiple sources of information**
2. **Recognize perspectives, assumptions, and biases**
3. **Synthesize the information received from various sources**
4. **Analyze information**
5. **Communicate conclusions**

Faculty from one undergraduate program in each of the university’s four schools will participate in a semester-long faculty development program designed to assist the faculty in developing critical thinking pedagogy and assessment. Programs will be added as the plan progresses, with faculty who have already participated in the faculty development program becoming mentors for subsequent faculty.

Texas Wesleyan’s QEP assessment plan calls for a nationally normed test of critical thinking (the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency Critical Thinking Module) which will be used for benchmarking and institutional assessment of the student learning outcomes. The locally developed Critical Thinking Across Disciplines (CTAD) Rubric will be used to assess student work in the redesigned courses as another direct measure of the student learning outcomes. Our instrument for student evaluation of courses and instructors (IDEA) will also be used as an indirect indicator of student progress on the SLO’s.

Questions regarding Wesleyan’s QEP can be sent to the Director, Nakia S. Pope at [npope@txwes.edu](mailto:npope@txwes.edu).