

The University of Tennessee's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) addresses a comprehensive strategic campus initiative that has involved an all-inclusive stakeholders' process. This report will provide a detailed description of specific actions to be implemented; the timeline for implementing and evaluating these actions; organizational structure for adequately staffing and executing the QEP; and a thorough review of the resources, including human, financial, physical, and budgetary, for operationalizing the QEP. The plan identifies clear goals and measurable objectives, as well as detailed plans to assess student learning outcomes, the student learning environment, and the role of the QEP in helping to accomplish the mission of the university.

Our QEP topic is **experiential learning**, which is engaged student learning through direct experience and intense reflection to increase knowledge, acquire lifelong learning and problem-solving skills, and elucidate values. This topic is in alignment with our university mission, which promotes excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and engagement. It also is in alignment with our university vision of the Volunteer Spirit, which promotes value creation, the generation of new ideas, and the preparation of capable and ethical leaders. This QEP, titled Experience Learning, brings exciting opportunities to make significant changes in student learning and student experiences and will play a vital role in meeting our Vol Vision strategic plan, which includes priorities related to undergraduate education, graduate education, faculty, and research.

The QEP interdisciplinary development team was formed in April and May 2013. The members of the committee were selected with broad-based representation of key academic and administrative areas, student support units, and current and former students. The development team and subgroups met regularly as part of an institutional process that identified key issues emerging from institutional assessment. The team considered potential topics and gained student, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders' input through surveys, forums, presentations, focus group interviews, and a website page until experiential learning was identified as the QEP topic through an all-encompassing institutional process. Experiential learning strengthens our commitment to the Vol Vision to provide a better learning environment for our students. At our university there is a growing need, voiced by students and various task forces and reports, that students need more opportunities to be involved in civic engagement, solving complex real-world problems, and contributing to the welfare of their communities as part of their regular course work. The results of national comparisons with peer institutions concur with these campus assessments.

From 2015 to 2020, this QEP will implement three initiatives as core actions: (1) faculty development programs, (2) Smart Communities Initiatives, and (3) faculty-staff-student support initiatives. The student learning outcomes measure that students will (1) value the importance of engaged scholarship and lifelong learning; (2) apply knowledge, values, and skills in solving real-world problems; (3) work collaboratively with others; and (4) engage in structured reflection as part of the inquiry process. We will implement both direct and indirect assessment activities. We will rely on rubrics adapted from Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education (VALUE) rubrics as a direct assessment to evaluate the student level of competence across the identified student learning outcomes and their accompanying benchmarks. We will also implement surveys to evaluate the QEP's influence on the campus community and the environment for student learning.

Overall, the University of Tennessee's QEP was developed to enhance the quality of its educational programming by focusing on student learning, and specifically experiential learning, as well as the environment supporting that learning, including faculty training, as part of our Vol Vision goal of being one of the top 25 public universities in the United States.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Christopher Lavan, director of Experience Learning, at clavan@utk.edu or visit <http://experiencelearning.utk.edu/>