



FAQ ABOUT ECU'S QEP

What is the point of the QEP?

The QEP is a five year plan designed to enhance the quality of student learning by focusing on a theme and specific student outcomes. It is part of the overall ECU Strategic Plan.

The theme:

EQU will develop informed, critical and creative thinkers who communicate effectively.

Student outcomes (focus)

Students will be able to:

Explore (discover, investigate) and use relevant information in order to gain knowledge and solve problems.

Evaluate (differentiate analyze) information and ideas using appropriate methods

Expand (develop) and generate their own ideas.

Express (deliver, communicate) a point of view and develop it with awareness of alternatives

How will we meet the student outcomes identified in the focus statements?

Through the development and implementation of a four part infrastructure that will guide program development over the five-year length of the project.

I. A CENTER FOR CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING

The three program components, Professional Development Plan, Program Initiatives, and Overall University Assessment Plan will be coordinated by The Center for Critical and Creative Thinking. A full time director will assure the organization, effective implementation and coordination of all aspects of this university initiative. The Director will report to the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs for University Programs.

II. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This plan will ensure that over a five-year period the University community will use a variety of methods to increase the number and quality of informed critical and creative thinkers who communicate effectively. The plan includes activities that will inform and energize, provide resources, train faculty and staff and showcase our accomplishments.

III. PROGRAM INITIATIVES

Level 1 programs are university-wide, co-curricular initiatives. The initially approved programs include The Service Learning Project , Thinking and Communicating Across the Curriculum, Addressing Critical and First Year Course: Transition to College and The Studio for Academic Creativity.

Level 2 programs are individual or unit specific pilot programs. Two programs are approved at this level: The CACTUS Project (Citizens' Assembly for Critical Thinking about the United States) and The Science in Society Project.

Level 3 programming is described as unit specific, non-funded initiatives demonstrated through educational objectives on the Strategic Plan. These objectives demonstrate the application of critical and creative thinking principles to discipline specific knowledge.

IV. OVERALL UNIVERSITY ASSESSMENT PLAN

The overall University Assessment Plan describes a university-wide process of assessing the development of informed, critical and creative thinkers who communicate effectively. Both formative and summative evidence of students' progress toward the goal will be sought.

When do these initiatives begin?

Fall 2007 The SACS site visit is April 10-12, 2007. SACS must give their approval before we will expend funds on any of the QEP proposals.

Can new proposals be submitted?

We will accept proposals in 2007 related to critical and creative thinking and communication. No additional proposals can be included in the QEP we are submitting to SACS to begin in 2007.

Who will approve these programs?

Programs are approved through the normal administrative process. Any courses or curricular changes will go through the normal academic route prior to implementation. QEP does not replace the normal curriculum approval process.

How can we get involved?

Get to know the QEP and how it will affect YOU. Review your unit's Action Plan to see how you are addressing Communication and Critical Thinking. Go to a forum this fall and ask questions of the committee members. Visit our web site for up to the minute information. OR Talk to any QEP committee member about our exciting QEP.