



## EKU Quality Enhancement Programs-- Summary Spring 2009

PROGRAM	COORDINATOR	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
Thinking and Communicating Across the Curriculum (TCAC)	Deb Core	Assists faculty with the development of writing-intensive courses that will help students think more deeply and communicate more effectively.	New "W" courses being added each semester, which now includes major-area courses as well as general-education courses, with approximately 300 students having taken. Faculty are engaging in professional development opportunities to improve their ability to integrate more and better writing into their courses.
First-Year Course Pilot—Foundations for Learning (GSD 101)	Erin Barnett	Provides foundational knowledge and skills in critical and creative thinking for this pilot, three-credit-hour course for first-year students.	16 sections of GSD 101 were offered in Fall 2008 for the first time and preliminary outcomes are being collected at this time. Instructors have been recruited for 21 sections for Fall 2009 for Psychology, English, Criminal Justice, Police Studies, Correctional & Juvenile Justice, and Undeclared first-year students.
The Service-Learning Project	Deanna Kasitz	Provides mini-grants to EKU instructors through a competitive process to incorporate the pedagogy of service-learning into new or existing courses for the purpose of promoting student critical and creative thinking and communication skills.	Four service-learning projects were funded during 2008/09 and three have been selected for the 2009/10 academic year. All projects have had, or are in process of having, their courses approved for the "S-designation." A late April presentation is being planned to showcase this year's projects.
Noel Studio for Academic Creativity	Sherry Robinson	Develops writing, speaking and research skills with the assistance of trained peer consultants.	Director to begin August 2009. Library construction will begin summer 2009, with an anticipated opening in Fall 2010. A planning group is working on programming and assessment plans.
CMS Faculty Critical & Creative Thinking Development Program	Jayne Violette	Provides instruction and support about critical and creative thinking to EKU faculty who teach the general education CMS 100 and CMS 210 courses.	CMS faculty have participated in several professional development opportunities, are constructing a Blackboard organizational site on critical thinking, compiling critical thinking resources, class assignments, activities--all related to the QE theme.
Education Diversity Program	Dorie Combs	Integrates critical and creative thinking into a diversity module for the COE Methods courses.	Several faculty development initiatives have been implemented during spring 2009 semester.
Citizens' Assembly for Critical Thinking About the United States (CACTUS)	Jane Rainey	Uses a model "citizens' assembly" format in which students use informed critical and creative thinking to address an issue of public concern and which has the potential to engage larger segments of the university community through public discussion for this Block VII course.	CACTUS is in its second year. Students in Spring 2008 analyzed and addressed the issue, "Is it time to change the legal drinking age?," developed and deliberated about several alternatives, recommended a change, wrote a referendum question to be sent to the university community, and wrote a final report.
Science & the Liberal Arts	Lynnette Noblitt	Increases student scientific and technological knowledge and promotes the ability to critically analyze the scientific information they discover, identify underlying assumptions, and make appropriate inferences for this Block VII course.	The course will be offered for the first time in Fall 2009 with two technology topics: stem cells and global warming. The faculty that will participate include Gregg Gunderson, Sara Zeigler, Don Yow, Laura Newhart, and Robert Houston



**EKU Quality Enhancement Plan at a Glance**  
**May 2009**  
**Submitted by the Office of Quality Enhancement Programs**  
**[WWW.QEP.EKU.EDU](http://WWW.QEP.EKU.EDU)**

**1. PROMOTING THE QEP**

***QE Coaches***

Train the Trainer-type program to facilitate improved critical and creative thinking and communication classroom strategies--Currently 20 QE Coaches (QE Coaches flyer)

***Student Events***

Student Focus Groups

- QEP Student Ambassadors to help promote the QEP to students
- Dead Week Events to education students about the QEP

**2. CRITICAL THINKING CERTIFICATION (*handout*)**

**3. PROGRAMS (*chart on back*)**

**4. STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVE INITIATIVE**

Per the EKU Strategic Plan, Strategic Direction 3.6, **100% of all reporting units with Educational Learning Objectives will include a goal, learning outcome or key performance indicator in their 2006-2010 Strategic Plan related to critical and creative thinking and/or communication.** Approximately 2/3rds of academic departments are in compliance at this date. Departments with no critical/creative thinking and/or communication SLO are being contacted to see if they would like assistance in developing one.

**5. TIMELINE**

Just completed the second year of the five-year QEP implementation plan. SACS is expected to visit in Fall 2011 to review our progress on meeting our goals and objectives.

**6. ASSESSMENT**

Data from is being collected and reviewed from all programs. The Critical Thinking Assessment Test (CAT) is being administered to freshmen and seniors each year to assess the campus-wide development of critical thinking skills.