

Faulkner University
Executive Summary of the Quality Enhancement Plan

Spiritual Formation – Intellect, Character, and Service

Faulkner University's (FAU) choice of Spiritual Formation for its Quality Enhancement Plan is logical given its consistency with its mission, values, and core beliefs. Faulkner University defines spiritual formation as the growth and development of the whole person by an intentional and deliberate process that focuses on the nurturing of (1) faith; (2) the spiritual practices (e.g. prayer, the study of scripture, meditation, and worship); and (3) interactions with others in ordinary life. Faulkner sees the formation, development and growth of the cited three areas as being realized via the shaping and molding of one's intellect, one's character, and in one's service to others. While treated as disparate entities, the University does not intend to convey the impression that intellect, character, and service are not interconnected. Indeed, it is the acquisition of godly knowledge (intellectual nurturing) that serves as a primary precursor in informing godly character. Once fashioned, godly character cannot help but promote godly service.

The realization of spiritual formation via the deepening of faith is brought about primarily by nurturing the intellect. At Faulkner, this is provided primarily through the University's key curricular areas of Christian Literacy (an eight-course sequence) and Cultural Heritage Literacy (a four-course sequence). The acquisition of godly character is attained in developing traits such as love, integrity, truthfulness, trustworthiness, humility, caring, compassion (mercy), justice, and faithfulness (responsibility); manifests itself in the spiritual practices such as prayer, meditation, and worship; and results in the dispositions to dialogue, care, and calling. The exercise of service is an indispensable expression of godly character and emphatically brings to the fore the key godly traits of caring, compassion, and humility. Students are exposed to the same three basic categories of service-learning typically utilized at Church-affiliated institutions—to community; to Institution; and to church.

The University has developed both umbrella and component learning outcomes for its Spiritual Formation Program (SFP), and its operational plan is fully developed through the summer of 2014. The University has developed a comprehensive assessment plan that employs seven instruments to evaluate the SFP's learning outcomes. The University has invested significant sums of time and money to ensure the successful implementation and execution of its SFP. An Office of Quality Enhancement, which houses a Director for the QEP and a Director for Service Learning, is already in place and oversees an estimated 400 students currently engaged in the SFP.

For information on the development, implementation, and assessment of Faulkner University's QEP, please contact:

Dr. Dave Rampersad
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
drampersad@faulkner.edu
334-386-7105