



Engaging the 21st Century Student: Re-Envisioning the General Education Curriculum for Relevance and Sustainability

Frederick Hunter, Jr., Director of QEP/Faculty Development and Assistant Professor of Sociology
Whitney McDowell-Robinson, Ph.D., NCC, Director of Career Pathways/Career Services
Demetria White, MTS MS, Director of Institutional Effectiveness



Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Gain an awareness of alternative approaches to instruction which enhance student development and learning within the classroom
- Gain an awareness of how re-envisioning the general education curriculum can align with the other institutional programming to improve student outcomes and support skills development that is relevant to the labor market



Challenges and Changes in Higher Education



Institutional Context



Tougaloo College's Mission and Vision



MISSION

Tougaloo College prepares its students to be lifelong learners who are committed to leadership and service in a global society through its diverse undergraduate and graduate programs. The College is accessible to all persons while making students aware of its rich legacy as an independent, historically black liberal arts institution, affiliated with the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



Tougaloo College's Mission and Vision

VISION

As a thriving internationally recognized institution, Tougaloo College will prepare its graduates to be productive in their time and lead the change for a better world





Tougaloo College At-a-Glance

STUDENTS:

750 Students
Avg. ACT Score: 19

INSTITUTION TYPE:

Small, Private, Liberal Arts College

UNDERGRADUATE PROFILE:

Black: 98%
Women: 95.3%

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE:

Retention Rate: 76%
Persistence Rate: 77%

STUDENT AID:

Pell Eligible: 90%

GRADUATION RATE:

Four-Year Rate: 40%
Six-Year Rate: 55%

FACULTY PROFILE:

Full-time Faculty: 70



Re-Envisioning General Education and Degree Programs



Linking Institutional Resources & Impact

- Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Research
- Office of Sponsored Programs and Research
- Quality Enhancement Plan



Forward Thinking and Workforce Development

- UNCF CPI
- NACE
- Faculty/Employer Council
- Education Design Lab
- INROADS
- ConneXions
- EMSI/Equifax



C.O.R.E./Interdisciplinary Instruction





C.O.R.E./Interdisciplinary Instruction

- Courses Created
 - Ways developed
 - Evolution/Assessment
- Brown-Tougaloo Partnership
 - Joint lecturing via technology



e-Learning and Service Learning

e-Learning

- Convenient and flexible
- Engages the 21st-century student
- Provides digital record keeping

Service Learning

- Guidance and hands-on experiences
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Connects students with professionals and community members
- Students engage a deeper involvement in intellectual growth, leadership development, and personal and social growth



Assessment



Assessment

- Quality Enhancement Plan
 - First-Year Program
 - QEP Courses
 - Co-Curricular Programming
- C.O.R.E.
 - Instructional Innovations
 - Research Developments
- Workforce Development & Career-Readiness
 - Career Pathways and Institutional Collaborations



Recommendations



Recommendations

- Consider revisiting your institutions instructional approaches, especially the General Education curriculum
- Identify pathways that link curricular and co-curricular for relevance to career-readiness
- Create a partnership between faculty and employers that facilitates improved classroom instruction that has relevance to the workplace
- Incentivize the campus, plan, and implement change

“It’s only after you’ve stepped outside your comfort zone that you begin to change, grow, and transform.”
 — **Roy T. Bennett**



Contact Us

Frederick L. Hunter, Jr., MSW, MA
 Director of QEP/Faculty Development
 Assistant Professor of Sociology and Social Work
 E-mail: fhunter@tougaloo.edu
 (O) 601.977.7891

Whitney McDowell-Robinson, Ph.D., NCC
 Director of Career Pathways/Career Services
 E-mail: wmcowell@tougaloo.edu
 (O) 601.977.7815

Demetria White, MST MS
 Director of Institutional Effectiveness
 E-mail: dwhite@tougaloo.edu
 (O) 601.977.7774


