



Through *Pursuit*, Abilene Christian University will equip undergraduates with the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and values to attain research literacy. These skills are developed and utilized in the creation of a research or creative product and then disseminated in a public environment, making a distinct awareness of and commitment to the body of knowledge in the discipline.

Research Literacy Initiative

The building of a community of research, scholarship, and creative expression is the overarching purpose of ACU's *Pursuit* QEP. The plan can be summarized by the three goals: Explore, Create, and Express.

- In the new Core Curriculum, students **Explore** and master information literacy as they think critically to write evaluative papers and articulate the nature and impact of significant global issues in research artifacts.
- Students **Create** a product while learning and practicing the skills needed to carry out a research or creative project. Opportunities are given to students to work with faculty mentors to carry out research or complete a creative activity.
- Students **Express** the results of their research or creative activity. Since the goal of research is to make public one's work for a context of critique, extension, and correction, students must learn to express their results in both written and oral communications (Boyer, 1998).

21st Century Vision

To best prepare our graduates for the 21st century, ACU plans to provide a distinctive, motivating educational experience. We will focus on the following areas:

- Produce leaders who think critically, globally and missionally;
- Build distinctive and innovative programs;
- Deliver a unique, Christ-centered experience that draws students into community; and
- Expand ACU's Christian influence and educational reach nationally and internationally.

Core Elements

Pursuit provides for:

- Focused curricular experiences through CORE classes, enhancing the research readiness of students;
- Expanded opportunities for research and creative projects through an intentional focus on faculty mentoring and through the allocation of financial resources for students and faculty to collaborate on research, scholarship and creative work, and settings for dissemination of research, scholarly and creative work; and
- Targeted professional development of faculty to assist in the creation and implementation of research-based courses.

Pursuit provides students an exciting way to engage in their discipline both inside and outside the classroom, leading to a deeper understanding of the academic area they have chosen, satisfying their thirst for discovery, and providing an outlet for their creativity. As we embark on the *Pursuit* on the *Journey of Research and Creative Expression*, we are committed to equipping students with tools to become life-long learners in an ever-changing society.

Contact Person: Phyllis Bolin, Director of QEP,
Phyllis.bolin@acu.edu

