

Agnes Advantage: Preparing Women for a World of Opportunity

Quality Enhancement Plan Agnes Scott College

The Agnes Scott College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) will enable us to strengthen and expand Agnes Scott's commitment to Agnes Advantage as a signature program of the college. Agnes Advantage provides all students with the opportunity to pursue immersive experiences linking the classroom to a wider world in three areas: internships, mentored research, and study abroad.

The college's first QEP, launched in the 2004-2005 academic year, was designed to improve our intellectual climate "by enhancing the academic and co-curricular experiences of all students." It was a broad and ambitious plan, spanning all four years of the undergraduate experience. The third and fourth years included "the Junior-Year Experience," which emphasized internships and study abroad. Capstone courses and projects characterized "the Senior-Year Experience." While this first QEP allowed the college to evaluate and enhance student experiences in the junior and senior years, most of our work focused on the first and second year experiences and on study abroad.

We see our new QEP as providing the opportunity to focus more systematically on experiential learning in the junior and senior years. This QEP will enhance student learning and the value of an Agnes Scott education by creating more opportunities for students to intern and conduct research, and by more systematically assessing student-learning outcomes in all three areas. Faculty will be given stipends to sponsor student internships and research, thereby creating more options in these areas; interdisciplinary internship courses will be developed; and internships, mentored research, and study abroad experiences will be evaluated using new assessment instruments. The QEP will ensure that these experiences share the same level of academic rigor as the already established practicum and capstone courses. For this to happen, the QEP will create stronger institutional support for these three experiential learning areas by establishing better methods for informing students about them, and better ways of mentoring and preparing students before they undertake them. Finally, all three areas will benefit from improved assessment, as well as an integrated and systematic approach to sharing and publicizing the intellectual and professional advantages of these opportunities. A vibrant Agnes Advantage program will not only enrich the learning environment on campus, it will also help students develop a compelling individual portfolio of knowledge, skills, and experiences critical to career and post-graduate success.

For more information please contact:

Jennifer L. Hughes

QEP Co-Chair and Writer

Charles Loridans Professor of Psychology and Chair of Psychology

jhughes@agnesscott.edu