

ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Executive Summary

The Alabama State University Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focuses on enhancing the culture of learning by integrating intensive literacy instruction into the curriculum. The focus and design for the QEP evolved from the QEP Exploratory Team and the university administration posing the question “What do we expect of an ASU graduate?” The information collected from several sources almost unanimously identified proficiency in reading, writing, and computational skills as paramount expectations for an ASU graduate. Further considerations revealed that the ability to gather, process, and use information effectively for daily decision-making, problem-solving, and continuous learning is critical, as well, to an ASU graduate’s personal, academic, and professional success. “Literacy” as a general concept embraces all of these expectations specified for an ASU graduate. Therefore, the QEP Exploratory Team, the administration, and other university constituents determined that an ASU graduate should be proficient in three specific literacy areas: reading and writing literacy (integrate the two), quantitative literacy, and information literacy.

The QEP defines student learning outcomes in each literacy area and presents a plan to target the outcomes for intensive, foundational instruction in the core curriculum courses required of all students during their first year and for a continuation literacy focus in selected courses in the major disciplines. The following statement expresses the overarching mission of the QEP: The Quality Enhancement Plan will enhance the culture of learning at Alabama State University through building higher levels of student competence in the defined literacy areas beginning with a strong first-year launch and extending into the degree majors. This enhanced culture of learning will positively impact the first-year retention rate of each entering freshman class and promote successful academic progression through graduation. It will further help create self-directed, lifelong learners with stronger capacity for succeeding in a rapidly changing and increasingly complex global environment.

Through accomplishing its mission, the QEP literacy program will support the achievement of the following objectives of Alabama State University’s *Vision 2020* strategic plan:

- Produce higher quality outcomes in all academic programs....
(Specifically: Systematically measure and improve the achievements of students’ educational outcomes at the course and curricular levels.
- Ensure a successful transitional matriculation experience for entering students.
- Ensure a teaching-learning process that reflects new realities of assessing and assimilating information and varied learning styles of students.
(Specifically: Support a program to assist the faculty in developing instructional strategies and methods, including expertise in the use of information technologies.)

Contact Person:

Mrs. Stephanie Alexander, Staff Associate

salexander@alasu.edu

915 South Jackson Street / 125 Life Science Building

Montgomery, AL 36104