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# Get in Gear for Critical Thinking

Alabama Southern Community College



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The focused purpose of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Alabama Southern Community College is to improve students' abilities to analyze and evaluate information in order to make decisions and solve problems. *Get in Gear for Critical Thinking (GIG4CT)* is supported as an improvement need, by both academic research and institutional data. Recent news articles and research reflect the demand for students to have critical thinking skills in order to be successful in educational pursuits and to obtain employment.

The goal of Alabama Southern Community College's *Get in Gear for Critical Thinking* QEP will be to enhance our students' abilities to engage in thoughtful decision making and problem solving by applying core reasoning skills including:

- analysis
- interpretation
- inference
- evaluation
- induction
- deduction

These skills will promote the success of our students in educational or workplace settings which demand critical thinking skills. Implementation of *GIG4CT* will involve intensive professional development for faculty and staff and an increased emphasis on critical thinking skills across the curriculum via changes in instructional and assessment methodology.

The assessment of student learning will be monitored through a multi-faceted approach:

1. Critical thinking as a general education outcome to be measured annually
2. Across the curriculum implementation of critical thinking student learning outcomes
3. Critical thinking focus in student organizations and activities outside of the classroom
4. Professional development for faculty and staff to gain exposure to critical thinking instructional strategies and best practices
5. Establishment of a critical thinking resource center for faculty and staff

The creation of a culture of critical thinking produced by implementation of the *Get in Gear for Critical Thinking* QEP at Alabama Southern Community College is paramount not only to the success of our present students but also to the success of our community's future.

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