



Quality Enhancement Plan

Teamwork: Preparing Students to Become Effective Team Members

Executive Summary

The Art Institute of Atlanta is a regionally accredited private college that grants both bachelor and associate degrees. The institution includes six campuses located in Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Virginia. The mission of The Art Institute of Atlanta is to prepare students for careers in design, media arts, culinary arts, and management in creative fields by providing an educational environment consistent with evolving technologies and the global marketplace. The Quality Enhancement Plan for The Art Institute of Atlanta is designed to develop graduates who possess the knowledge, skills, and behaviors required to function effectively as members of a team.

The selection of teamwork as the Quality Enhancement Plan topic involved input from faculty, staff, and students from all campuses and analysis of internal and external data. Preparation of graduates for career entry and growth in their chosen field of study is an important component of the mission of The Art Institute of Atlanta. Teamwork embraces the skills students must learn to differentiate them from the competition and succeed in the marketplace. Business leaders consistently state that they want new employees to think, talk, and work effectively as members of a team. Many definitions of teamwork exist and The Art Institute of Atlanta has chosen the following definition: Teamwork involves a committed group of people who collaborate to achieve a common goal and hold one another collectively responsible.

The Quality Enhancement Plan goals were developed based on analysis of the current educational environment, industry requirements, best practices, and The Art Institute of Atlanta mission. Analysis of the teaching environment at The Art Institute of Atlanta demonstrated that while teamwork is currently a part of the educational process, significant improvement could occur. Success depends on development of the faculty and staff for more effective facilitation of teamwork.

A Quality Enhancement teamwork model was developed by the QEP committee. This model will be utilized, following a sequential process for developing the resources, knowledge, skills, and behaviors of effective team members. A multilevel planning and assessment process will monitor the achievement of the QEP goals. Faculty, staff, students, and graduates will be involved in the assessment cycle to monitor progress of the plan and to improve the methods of achieving the goals.

Successful implementation of the QEP will require institutional resources and teamwork. The Art Institute of Atlanta has embraced a culture that values teamwork and will develop graduates who have the knowledge, skills, and behaviors of effective team members.

Dr. Michael Hoefler, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research
mhoefler@aia.edu