

**Information Quality:
Austin Presbyterian Seminary's Quality Enhancement Plan
Executive Summary**

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is committed to the education and formation of women and men for the practice of leadership in ministry. The acquisition of the highest quality of information on a broad variety of topics is essential for ministerial leadership because ministry requires both information and wisdom.

Learning outcome four of Austin Seminary's Master of Divinity program calls for graduates to "pursue and evaluate knowledge through inquiry, research, contemplation, critical thinking and practice...." In support of this learning outcome, the school is implementing Information Quality (IQ), a program to integrate information literacy skills across the MDiv. curriculum.

The IQ implementation plan calls for activities related to finding, retrieving, analyzing, and using information to be threaded through all required courses and selected electives. In the fall 2009 term, for instance, all entering MDiv students in required courses heard presentations on 12 basic skills of IQ. Both librarians and professors design and teach IQ activities.

Information literacy skills are grouped via the mnemonic FRAU (Find, Retrieve, Analyze, and Use). Austin Seminary's understanding of information literacy skills is based on the Association of College and Research Libraries Standard and Performance Indicators for Information Literacy. See www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/issues/infolit/index.cfm.

Student facility with IQ will be assessed through entrance and exit tests, direct assessment in courses (for example, assessment of a group PowerPoint presentation in a required course on world religions), and through the seminary's ongoing program of learning assessment. The implementation of IQ is overseen by the library, information quality, and research committee of the faculty.

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