



***Education for a Lifetime:
Christendom's Academic and Professional Integration Program
Executive Summary***

Christendom College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), entitled "*Education for a Lifetime: Christendom's Academic and Professional Integration Program*" (ELP), will enhance the student learning environment by integrating students' career discernment into their liberal arts education. It will accomplish this goal by adding two courses to the required core curriculum. In these courses students will reflect on their education and their opportunities in the world. In this way the ELP will enhance the College's mission "to restore all things in Christ," by helping to form men and women "who can contribute to the Christian renovation of the temporal order."

The two one-credit courses, one spanning the Freshman through Sophomore years and the other spanning the Junior through Senior years, that are to be added to the core curriculum will be required of all Christendom undergraduates. Each of these courses will consist of a mandatory classroom experience of 10-15 contact hours conducted in the first part of the two-year period as well as mandatory workshops regularly spaced over the remaining parts of the two-year period. The College's commitment to the program is reflected in the fact that successful completion of these courses will be required of every student for graduation with a Bachelor of Arts degree. This requirement will begin with the Freshman class that enters in Fall 2012.

Two components of the proposal were deemed crucial by the QEP Leadership Team and have been adopted by the College as central pillars of the ELP. The first component is that the program should extend over a student's entire matriculation at Christendom College. For this reason the courses are each spread over two years and include either a class or workshop each semester. The second component stipulates that this program is not simply a career development program but a program that integrates the liberal arts into each student's preparation for life after Christendom. Thus the ELP will be an enhancement of the College's ability to carry out its mission.

Christendom's Education for a Lifetime Program was developed after broad, in-depth discussions within the whole College community about possible QEP topics that focus on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning. Significant institutional data supported the choice of *Education for a Lifetime* as Christendom's QEP topic. Furthermore, the topic is related to one of the strategic visions of the 2010-2013 Strategic Plan approved by the Board of Directors on December 12, 2009.

Clearly defined outcomes and means of assessment have been identified. A QEP Implementation Team will be appointed by the President when the QEP is approved by SACS. The team will be responsible for collecting and analyzing the numerous data sets needed for assessing the plan's attainment of these outcomes, initiating the appropriate changes needed to achieve them more effectively, and writing the Impact Report of the Quality Enhancement Plan.

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