

Write Now for the Road Ahead

Dabney S. Lancaster Community College
Ms. Nova Wright, Director of Library Services and QEP Director
(nwright@dslcc.edu)

The Dabney S. Lancaster Community College QEP aims to improve student writing skills in order to better accomplish its mission, prepare students for successful careers and educational pursuits, and enhance student effort in the classroom. The college plans to improve student writing through multiple interventions, namely the implementation of a college writing center, the creation of an electronic portfolio assignment, and an increased emphasis on writing across disciplines that includes shared expectations of student writing, as defined by a general writing rubric.

Multiple committees made of faculty, staff, and students used institutional data, survey results, and qualitative information to develop the QEP topic and decide upon the plan's learning outcomes and strategic goals. Five learning outcomes create the foundation for the QEP:

1. Students will use correct punctuation, grammar, and tone when sending professional correspondence (e.g., emails, applications, cover letters) to campus officials and employers.
2. Students will be able to identify situations when using a formal tone is appropriate versus informal tone.
3. Students will cite references accurately using an appropriate style guide.
4. Students can create a clear and concise paragraph that includes a) a topic statement, b) logical flow, and c) a concluding/transitional statement.
5. Students can write an effective argument that includes a) a concise thesis statement, b) appropriate references, and c) clear organization.

To enhance student success on these learning outcomes, the plan improves the availability of learning resources on campus, encourages student self-reflection, promotes the importance of writing across multiple disciplines, impacts student academic engagement, particularly with regards to student effort, and facilitates opportunities for discussion of professionalism in communication.

The college is committed to the realization of the plan, supporting the plan's goals and dedicating funds necessary for the implementation and continued success of the plan's components. The QEP's learning outcomes and strategic goals will be assessed through a comprehensive process involving usage data, survey results, and performance assessment scores.