

Eastern Kentucky University
Quality Enhancement Plan
Executive Summary

The primary purpose of Eastern Kentucky University's Quality Enhancement Plan is to facilitate the development of students who are able to more effectively use higher-order thinking skills. This purpose is defined more specifically through a theme and focus statement developed within the context of and in a dynamic relationship with the University Strategic Plan. The overall theme of the QEP is:

Eastern Kentucky University will develop informed, critical and creative thinkers who communicate effectively.

The Focus Statements further define the theme and provide student learning outcomes for program development and assessment. The focus statements specify that students will:

Explore (identify, discover) and use relevant information in order to gain knowledge and solve problems.

Evaluate (analyze) information and ideas using appropriate methods.

Expand (develop) and generate their own ideas and express them effectively.

Express (clearly articulate) a point of view and develop it with awareness of alternatives.

The Infrastructure

A four-part infrastructure was designed in order to achieve the goal of educating students to be critical and creative thinkers who communicate effectively. The infrastructure is designed to guide program development and assessment over the five-year duration of the QEP. The infrastructure is composed of four broad undertakings defined briefly below:

1. A Center for Quality Enhancement is proposed to assure that the organization and management of the QEP will effectively implement and coordinate all aspects of the plan.
2. A professional development plan will assure that faculty, staff, and students have the skills and abilities to meet the student outcomes.
3. An assessment plan will assure the implementation of a university-wide process of measuring our progress toward the development of informed, critical and creative thinkers who communicate effectively.
4. A variety of program initiatives will be implemented across campus. The initial programs are: The First Year Course, Service Learning, A Studio for Academic Creativity, and two course specific initiatives. These programs create opportunities for students to develop the ability to be informed, creative and critical thinkers who communicate effectively.

In order to achieve its goal of educating students to be critical and creative thinkers who can explore, evaluate, expand, and express ideas and information, the Eastern Kentucky University community is dedicated to the implementation of the many initiatives that are involved in the Quality Enhancement Plan. This QEP is intended to guide efforts toward the Eastern Kentucky University vision of "holding national distinction as a leading, comprehensive university focused on students and learning."

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