

Quality Enhancement Plan “Ignite”

Executive Summary

To support our mission and vision Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) has produced its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) known as Ignite. This initiative will manifest itself in an active learning environment dedicated to a systematic inquiry or investigation that applies interdisciplinary principles to solve problems or advance knowledge.

The goals of the initiative are:

1. Faculty and staff will engage students in scholarly activities and facilitate research through curricular or co-curricular learning opportunities.
2. Students will obtain the skills to investigate hypotheses, solve problems and/or advance knowledge utilizing various disciplines.

ERAU will incorporate research learning as a standard of undergraduate curriculum, giving students the opportunity to develop critical research skills, practice those skills and master them by graduation. The faculty has created a curriculum that presents a blueprint for learning during students’ entire tenure at ERAU and prepares them for future positions in industry.

The total Ignite curriculum provides undergraduates with a learning experience rooted in the process of discovery through research and inquiry. The initial implementation of Ignite focuses on first-year undergraduate students, and will be followed in subsequent years by a tiered curriculum development plan that will be implemented through their graduation. The enhanced research culture will include course-based research, mentored curricular/co-curricular research, and academic research support services.

Research shows that students that engage in research in their undergraduate curriculum have increased self-confidence, better intellectual development, and clarification of career goals. Students that are introduced to the culture of research early in their academic careers form better connections between the classroom and research skills that are required to solve real-world problems.

Through the Ignite enhancements, the University will better fulfill Embry-Riddle’s vision: to be the world’s source for innovation and excellence in aerospace education and applied research.

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