

“Learning. Doing. Connecting:
Project-Based Learning as a Tool to Integrative Learning”

Emory & Henry College

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Executive Summary

Emory & Henry College has chosen “Learning. Doing. Connecting: Project-Based Learning as a Tool to Integrative Learning” as its Quality Enhancement Plan. This initiative focuses on project-based work as a tool to integrative learning where students connect what they care about to what they are learning. Integrative learning is an understanding and a mindset that a student builds across the curriculum and co-curriculum, from making connections between ideas and experiences to situations within and beyond the campus. To this end, integrative learning aims to help students make critical connections between their learning and the world to prepare them for “lives of service, productive careers, and global citizenship” as spelled out in the College’s mission statement. Additionally, with this emphasis on integrative learning, students will be able to explore and make connections with their own self identities and the identities and experiences of other people, enhancing the College’s increasing focus on inclusive excellence.

The concept for the QEP emerged from the College-wide “Ampersand” (formerly called “Project Ampersand”) initiative that resulted from the work of the 2013-2014 Strategic Overlay Advisory Committee that included a wide array of campus constituents (faculty, staff, students, alumni, and Trustees). The Ampersand concept was further refined through multiple working groups, discussion groups, and one-on-one conversations with faculty, staff, and students since its implementation into the campus culture beginning in January 2015. In July 2016, the QEP Implementation Committee was formed to develop the specific actions to be implemented for the topic of integrative learning, as well as to develop an assessment plan and identify necessary resources.

Integrative learning is grounded in experiential practices and encompasses a wide range of pedagogical methods. The College selected three important initiatives—enhancing the student learning environment, providing faculty development opportunities, and offering student showcase events—that will enhance integrative project-based learning at Emory & Henry College. Implementation of the current plan focuses particularly on the Core Curriculum and on support for projects in the majors. With more attention to project-based and integrative-learning experiences in the programs of study and with enhanced opportunities to share their projects and integrative experiences with a variety of audiences, students will be more prepared for the workplace and active citizenry.