

## Executive Summary

**Institution:**

Florida A&M University

**Title of Quality Enhancement Plan:**

*Enhancing Performance in Critical Thinking*

**Contact:**

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**Goal:**

The overall goal of the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is to improve student learning in the area of critical thinking. As part of the FAMU QEP, course curricula will be redesigned to include explicit critical thinking instructional and learning objectives with corresponding assessment instruments. Consistent with the FAMU Mission Statement, developing students' critical thinking skills in and out of the classroom will improve student learning, and produce graduates who are more prepared for the challenges of further academic study, careers and the global society.

**Focus:**

The FAMU QEP has a specific focus on select courses in the University's General Education curriculum that most students typically complete during their first year. With a focus on the target courses, and by using the FAMU Critical Thinking Definition and the concepts of Bloom's Taxonomy (Revised), the FAMU QEP will introduce changes in curriculum, pedagogy, and assessment methods in order to increase the likelihood that first year students will show measurable improvements in their critical thinking skills, which include the ability to:

- Effectively identify, gather, and process relevant information or evidence;
- Effectively analyze and evaluate information or evidence;
- Make informed judgments about the validity of information and the arguments of others; and
- Use relevant information to solve problems.

Specific activities in and relating to these courses include:

- Writing critical essays;
- Preparation and defense of case study analyses;
- Participation in a *Freshman Critical Thinking Seminar Series*; and
- Participation in a *Freshman Summer Reading Program*.

Faculty development will be an important part of the implementation of the FAMU QEP. All University faculty will have opportunities to participate in a series of faculty development activities designed to improve pedagogy and assessment of critical thinking skills. Accordingly, uniform and effective critical thinking pedagogy and assessment methods will be embedded into course curricula.