



Student Awareness Generates Action (SAGA)



Florida Southern College

Florida Southern College's Quality Enhancement Plan – *Student Awareness Generates Action (SAGA)* – is designed to prepare students to make a positive and consequential impact on society. Through exposure to biennial themes, students become aware of societal issues, and such awareness leads to involvement in the community through volunteerism and community service.

The QEP at Florida Southern College has been designed to directly address students' limited understanding of or exposure to vitally important issues that lie outside the realm of their immediate experience. Through a campus-wide, collaborative initiative, students' horizons will expand so that they leave the Florida Southern campus with a broadened awareness of issues that affect communities and gain experience acting on those needs to improve society.

SAGA has two major goals and associated outcomes that address student awareness of thematic issues and action generated by that increased awareness:

1. Student awareness of each theme will be increased through curricular and co-curricular activities.
2. Students will participate in extracurricular activities involving the SAGA theme. For SAGA, extracurricular activities are those that constitute service to the community in response to concerns raised by thematic issues.

Three themes have been proposed for the implementation of SAGA:

1. 2008-2010 – Hunger and Poverty: Through a focus on hunger and poverty, students and the wider campus community will develop more informed social perspectives on these issues of universal concern.
2. 2010-2012 – Health Issues: The issue of physical and mental health is directly related to the theme of hunger and poverty and is a natural transition from that theme.
3. 2012-2014 – Civilization and Environment: Increased awareness of the interdependent aspects of the environment and civilization will provide many avenues for appropriate action.

Curricular and co-curricular activities will introduce thematic issues to the campus community in a variety of ways. Curricular actions incorporating aspects of the theme will include courses with appropriate learning outcomes and corresponding assessments that will be offered each semester, a freshman common reading, and a first-year course that provides a platform for discussion of the freshman common reading. In addition, faculty seminars and workshops on techniques for incorporating themes into existing courses will be held. Co-curricular activities will include campus-wide convocations, including one on the common reading, film series, student government activities, volunteer fairs, and residence life and wellness programs.

Extracurricular activities are defined as volunteer and community service activities likely located off-campus. In addition to the involvement of student organizations such as fraternities and sororities, the staffs of study abroad, campus ministries, and student development will coordinate service and mission trips to domestic and international locations for thematic action.

Contact:

Dr. Claudia Slate
Director of SAGA
Professor of English
cslate@flsouthern.edu