

Institution Name: Florida Southern College

Quality Enhancement Title: Be Curious. Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity

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The overall goal of the QEP is to increase and improve the undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity for all Florida Southern College students. More specifically, the three goals of the Florida Southern QEP are to: ensure that undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity skill development is pervasive across Florida Southern's programs of study and impacts all students; increase faculty development in these areas; and enhance institutional support for undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activity. This will be achieved primarily by embedding the learning and development of skills necessary for undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in at least four required courses within each degree program. As our students move along their educational paths, they will transition from being receivers of knowledge to independent scholars who have the expertise to create original works.

Florida Southern's QEP developed over a two-year iterative process with feedback at multiple junctures from faculty, staff, students, and other stakeholders. Our plan was informed by institutional data and the current literature surrounding this high impact practice. It fits squarely within the College's strategic plan, it enhances our commitment to engaged learning, and builds upon a strong foundation of undergraduate research and creative activity. Most importantly, our QEP focuses on improving student learning. Our students will learn to think critically, communicate effectively, analyze information, and synthesize it in novel ways.

Although the major foci of Florida Southern's QEP is embedding skill development in the curriculum, we are also providing additional opportunities for students to participate in collaborative projects with faculty, to present their work both on- and off- campus and creating new avenues to disseminate student achievements. The QEP assessment plan not only includes rubrics to assess the student learning objectives, but will also evaluate changes to the campus culture and potential influence on attitudes toward undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity. Although our plan is ambitious, Florida Southern is committed to providing the additional personnel, financial, and structural resources required for the increased valuation of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity.