

ECHO: Everything You Do Comes Back to You
Executive Summary

Jacksonville University's Quality Enhancement Plan "ECHO: Everything You Do Comes Back to You" has two interrelated goals: 1) to enhance students' post-graduate preparation through experiential learning and 2) to create an institutional culture that supports experiential learning. ECHO created a three credit hour experiential learning graduation requirement which can be fulfilled through a study abroad program, service-learning course, undergraduate research opportunity or internship.

In addition to thoroughly reviewing best practices within the literature, JU evaluated our own individual experiential learning programs, the needs of faculty, our mission and strategic plan. JU created university-wide standards for academic rigor and student learning for each of the individual experiential learning opportunities.

The student learning outcomes for JU's QEP focus on enhancement to critical thinking, diversity skills, teamwork, and communication. These student learning outcomes will be assessed using three main tools. First, ECHO student learning outcomes will be evaluated using five rubrics based on The Association of American Colleges and Universities Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education rubrics (AAC&U VALUE rubrics). The Experiential Learning Assessment Committee will use the rubrics to evaluate actual student artifacts from a sample of experiential learning courses each semester. Second, student perception data will also be measured through post-course surveys. Finally, to triangulate the student learning outcome data, the student learning outcomes will be evaluated comparing to the results from the nationally standardized BCSSE and NSSE surveys.

The institutional outcomes for JU's QEP will be assessed in four ways. First, data will be gathered from faculty to assess the experiential learning faculty development programs to ensure quality of professional development and training resources. Two sets of survey data will be collected from students and faculty to evaluate the resources and support provided by the experiential learning offices. And finally, information will be gathered from the experiential learning offices to ensure that necessary collaboration and resources exist to allow their support of these experiential learning programs.

To both enhance and expand experiential learning at JU, the existing budget will be doubled in support of students, the experiential learning offices & faculty that oversee experiential learning. To ensure success of ECHO oversight and assessment, the University installed an Office of Experiential Learning. Additionally, support staff will be added to other experiential learning offices that currently need the human resources.

With well-thought out goals for enhancing student learning and the institutional culture that supports experiential learning, ECHO aims to have a positive impact on JU. These effects will reverberate throughout our classrooms and into our community.