



**Quality Enhancement Plan
Executive Summary**

LIFE is learning...together

Engaging Students with Active Learning Strategies Throughout the Curriculum

Life University is committed to providing an environment for teaching and learning excellence by supporting faculty as effective facilitators of learning and engaging students with active learning strategies (ALS) throughout the curriculum. The intent of this QEP is to improve learners' abilities to engage with course material in a way that improves their ability to attain and apply knowledge in academic, community, and future professional context. Further, in support of the institution's mission to help its graduates build lives of success and significance, the use of ALS is conducive to instilling in its graduates a desire to pursue lifelong learning. The QEP Committee developed the topic based on involvement and input from the Life University community. Congruent with findings from institutional data review, purpose of the QEP, and the institution's mission, vision, and core values; the resultant plan is called "***Life is learning...together***".

After clearly defining the topic "active learning," examining underlying theory, refining and creating a definition, the QEP Design Team developed a plan to engage students in active learning throughout the curriculum. Active learning is a process in which teaching and learning are collaborative. Students take a more active role in their own education while the instructor assumes the role of a facilitator. The Design Team identified a variety of effective student engagement methods, including use of interactive classroom technology known as Learner Response Systems (sometimes referred to as "clickers") and faculty support to assist in development of their abilities to facilitate active learning in the classroom. These methods, while not exclusive, include training in advanced use of Blackboard course management, Schoolhouse Test writing software, improved MS Office PowerPoint designs, and use of Camtasia Studios for video capture and voice over PowerPoint.

Specific goals and objectives with corresponding assessments were developed to monitor the progress of the QEP and improvement in student learning. This plan includes multiple assessment measures and performance data from a variety of sources; from course level common examinations, mean score reports to capstone and benchmark examinations, as well as faculty and student surveys.

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