

LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY
Executive Summary
QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan)
LIGHT: Illuminating Cultural Engagement

Inspired by its mission of integrating faith and practice with academic excellence through involvement with the larger community, Lipscomb University developed a Quality Enhancement Plan that infuses the undergraduate curriculum with an intentional, coherent focus on intercultural engagement. Exemplifying the belief that the global is local and the local is global, the name of the plan captures the interconnectedness of campus and community: cultural engagement will be “illuminating” for students as they proceed through the *LIGHT* program, and when they graduate, they should be prepared to promote the importance of cultural engagement themselves as citizens of the world.

Foundations of the *LIGHT* program are embedded in the general education curriculum. The cornerstone course, *Lipscomb Experience*, has been revised to ensure student learning outcomes align with those of the *LIGHT* program. The capstone general education course, a team-taught interdisciplinary course called *Engagements* that undergraduate students take in their junior year, was also revised to include *LIGHT* content. In addition, most of the majors that Lipscomb offers will incorporate *LIGHT* content into at least one of the courses required for the major. This broad curricular approach allows students to move from investigating intercultural issues in the context of the liberal arts to the more specific intercultural issues that arise in their major field of study.

In addition to curricular requirements, the *LIGHT* program will provide numerous extracurricular opportunities for students who wish to expand their intercultural engagement. *LIGHT Here* events offer activities that celebrate diverse cultures. *LIGHT Away* experiences, such as global learning and mission trips, allow students who wish to go further afield the opportunity to experience life in a different culture. For both *LIGHT Here* and *LIGHT Away* experiences, students will submit reflective essays or journals in response to prompts provided by the *LIGHT* program staff.

Students will also have the option to be named a *LIGHT* Scholar upon graduation. The curricular and extracurricular requirements for *LIGHT* Scholar status are designed to encourage students’ intellectual, academic, and spiritual investment in the *LIGHT* program and its goals.

The campus-wide involvement in the development of the *LIGHT* program, the integration of the program into the curriculum, the varieties of extracurricular opportunities, and the planning for implementation and both direct and indirect assessment methods, all foretell a bright future for intercultural learning and engagement at Lipscomb University.

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