

Meharry Medical College
Quality Enhancement Plan
Center for Educational Development and Support

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Executive Summary

To accomplish its historic mission, Meharry Medical College must take into consideration the academic preparation of all students who are enrolled and will potentially apply and matriculate in its academic programs. The college's mission is *"to improve the health and health care of minority and underserved communities by offering excellent education and training programs in the health sciences; placing special emphasis on providing opportunities of people of color and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, regardless of race or ethnicity; delivering high quality health services; and conducting research that fosters the elimination of health disparities."* To achieve this end, the College must also develop an outstanding faculty with exceptional pedagogical skills that will prepare students from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds to meet the challenges of: (1) comprehensive and competitive health professions curricula; (2) timely course progression; (3) success of licensure certification examinations; and (4) continuous, self-directed, lifelong learning.

To improve student learning, the schools, departments, and divisions of the College came together to collaborate and to develop the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Under the leadership of the SACS Liaison, the College launched a campus-wide series of activities that included orientation to the SACS accreditation reaffirmation process for faculty, staff and students. The orientation process consisted of other orientation sessions – one for the appointed Steering Committee; one for the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the subcommittees – addressing the Comprehensive Standards, and Core and Federal Regulations. Additionally, to determine the key QEP issues on the campus, campus-wide surveys were conducted. The survey findings were, in rank order: (1) support services for faculty, staff, and students; (2) excellence in student performance; and (3) faculty development and support.

The Quality Enhancement Plan, as conceived, designed, and based on our survey findings, addresses defined challenges and will provide additional learning opportunities for students and faculty. The QEP consists of two primary initiatives: (1) student academic support initiatives and (2) faculty development and support initiatives. The Quality Enhancement Plan incorporates defined strategies, techniques, and skill sets aimed at improving student learning and performance, as well as, developing pedagogical skills of the teaching faculty.

The center's performance will be judged in terms of its measurable contributions of the college's strategic priority for educational excellence, which includes objectives for student retention, timely progression to graduation, and increased pass rates on national licensure certification examinations.