



Executive Summary
MT Engage
Middle Tennessee State University
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MT Engage, Middle Tennessee State University's (MTSU) Quality Enhancement Plan, seeks to create a culture in which students become actively engaged in their learning. MT Engage will build a campus climate that encourages and supports faculty to teach with high-impact educational practices and create opportunities for students to reflect on and document their own learning.

Student engagement is a priority at MTSU. The University's mission statement stresses the importance of fostering "a student-centered environment conducive to lifelong learning, personal development, and success," and challenging students "through diverse teaching methods and media including educational technology, experiential learning, undergraduate and graduate research, and cocurricular and extracurricular activities." This emphasis is supported by the University's 2015–2025 Academic Master Plan Strategic Direction 1, which aims to "promote engagement that supports learning, scholarship, and student success." The University's *Quest for Student Success* strategic planning document also emphasizes the importance of pedagogies that enhance learning through hands-on learning and strategic use of technology that allows for more classroom interaction. Yet MTSU scores on the National Survey of Student Engagement and the results from student focus groups and faculty surveys demonstrate the need for a renewed, deliberate, and sustained plan to address student engagement on our campus.

In order for students to become more engaged in their learning, faculty must first create opportunities for them to become physically and psychologically involved in productive learning activities. MT Engage will create a support network to help faculty integrate high-impact educational practices into their classroom teaching and supplement student learning with relevant cocurricular activities. These high-impact practices, based on research by George Kuh (2008) and the Association for Colleges and Universities, include learning communities, problem-based learning, collaborative learning, project-based learning, and research, as well as cocurricular activities like attending cultural events, participating in Scholars Week, and community involvement. Faculty who choose to learn about and implement such practices can earn an MT Engage designation for their classes, and students can seek out these engaging learning environments throughout their educational careers at MTSU.

The second key piece of MT Engage is getting students to reflect on and think about their learning. Each MT Engage-designated course will require students to complete at least one assignment that fosters integrative thinking and reflection. This metacognitive process will result in students demonstrating their ability to make connections across multiple contexts and educational experiences and developing a sense of themselves as learners. Examples of this work will be collected in personalized ePortfolios, which will become showcases for students' integration of the knowledge, skills, and abilities gained during their time at MTSU.