

TEACHING ACTIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES TO
IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION



QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN
MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

For information regarding the development and implementation of MGCCC's QEP, please contact
Dr. Joan Haynes, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, at joan.haynes@mgccc.edu

Executive Summary

In the search for a single initiative to improve student learning at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC), the college's research efforts indicated a strong need for improving student reading comprehension. This proved to be the best fit for the college's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and is validated by the research of others who have discovered the direct link between students' reading comprehension ability and student success. The QEP topic for MGCCC will focus on student learning related to improvement of reading comprehension skills and vocabulary development. The QEP proposal will implement three major initiatives:

- Extensive faculty professional development in reading comprehension skills instruction
- Implementation of a variety of reading comprehension activities based on current best practices and research, utilizing curriculum specific materials
- Establishment of ongoing support systems for students and instructors, including an Online Reading Research Site, learning resource enhancements, and creation of an Instruction Manual on Reading Comprehension

For research and assessment purposes, the college's QEP will begin with a focused effort to improve reading comprehension of students enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing program (ADN). Ultimately, the outcomes of the QEP will strengthen student reading comprehension throughout the general education college curriculum.

During the selection of the topic, the college paired focus group data with analysis of predictor variables and other factors related to reading ability. The studies determined that student success is strongly correlated with reading skills and students of the ADN program would be an effective target group for establishing best practices in reading comprehension improvement for all MGCCC students. During the first three years of the QEP, professional development, implementation efforts, and assessment will be focused on the ADN program. At the end of the third year, the college will use the assessment data to determine which practices in professional development, reading activities, and resources proved most useful and effective in improving students' reading skills. During the fourth and fifth year, the college will expand the best practices model into the general education curriculum of all associate degree students.