

On the Write Track: Mount Olive College's QEP **Executive Summary**

Mount Olive College is a private institution rooted in the liberal arts tradition with multiple North Carolina locations. The College is helping to transform the lives of over 900 traditional students and more than 4100 working adults in a friendly, Christian environment. At the beginning of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) process, Mount Olive College (MOC) canvassed constituent groups – traditional and non-traditional students at all locations, full-time and adjunct faculty, administration, staff, and trustees – and asked one question: “What would make the single biggest difference in student learning at Mount Olive College?” The answer was a strong consensus that our QEP should focus on helping students to become more effective writers.

Through the successful implementation of the QEP – entitled *On the Write Track* – MOC will

- establish a culture that values writing among students,
- devise intervention strategies which cause students to improve as writers, and
- provide a sufficient number of learning opportunities for students to become excellent writers.

The QEP Director, assisted by the QEP Advisory Committee, developed three major components to operationalize these desired outcomes: a newly-established Writing Center (envisioned as a small resource center in the original QEP plan), a newly-established First-Year Composition Program, and a newly-established Writing-Across-the-Curriculum program. All of these programs undergo continuous assessment, with evaluations of assessment data informing changes in programming and curriculum. Revisions to the original QEP plan have been implemented based on these evaluations.

The Writing Center supports students in improving their writing skills, enabling writers from any discipline to seek help from specially-trained peer Writing Coaches. The Center provides an on-campus space for writing help and performs campus outreach to students in the form of events and social media. Writing Coaches offer assistance at any stage of the writing process, from topic invention to thesis construction, from outlining to documenting sources. The Center helps establish a culture in which writing is valued; it also provides intervention strategies causing students to improve as writers and provides learning opportunities for students to become better writers

The creation of a First-Year Composition (FYC) Program was not considered in the original QEP plan; however, the Director identified the need and implemented a revised curriculum. The FYC Program provides an opportunity to align these important courses with the QEP Student Learning Outcomes – defined by the QEP Advisory Committee as Organization, Contextual Awareness, Standard Conventions, and the Writing Process – as well as outcomes from a national organization, Council of Writing Program Administrators. Additionally, the FYC Program devises intervention strategies which cause students to improve as writers and provides learning opportunities for students to become better writers.

The Writing-Across-the-Curriculum Program focuses on faculty and adjunct training and development to encourage the integration of writing opportunities into courses across disciplines. In these writing-intensive courses – referred to in the original QEP plan as metaphorical “Stations” along the *Write Track* – students are provided a number of learning opportunities to become excellent writers. The continued focus on writing throughout students’ academic careers helps to establish a culture that values writing.

Mount Olive College expects that operationalizing the QEP will help us to weave into the fabric of our institution our desired outcomes, resulting in lasting improvements to the way writing is done at our college.

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