



NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY

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QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Quality Enhancement Plan: *Critical Thinking: Learning to Make Informed Decisions*
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Executive Summary

The North Carolina A&T State University QEP enhances critical thinking and communication skills among undergraduates. To achieve this, the QEP guides students from randomly selected courses through learning outcomes that stress the basics of critical thinking, working with data, problem solving, reaching solutions, conclusions and decisions, and, finally, communicating effectively. These five outcomes are assessed with measures that include direct assessments such as the Critical Assessment Test (CAT), the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP), and others deemed necessary. The indirect measures involve the administration of student and faculty surveys along with the feedback obtained in focus groups. The QEP also requires the collection and analyses of artifacts that evidence student progression through learning stages that include critical thinking strategies. These direct and indirect measures and other elements of the plan have established timelines in accordance with an ongoing assessment.

The QEP is rich in opportunities for the professional development of faculty through attendance at critical thinking workshops and conferences nationwide. For instance, faculty members participate in entire and half-day institutes conducted by experienced facilitators. These professional development experiences are geared towards improving interdisciplinary collaborations and integration of critical thinking-based activities to ensure a positive impact on student learning during and after the QEP. In essence, the QEP aims at changing student behavior in critical thinking through instructional practices integrated in the curriculum and in the assessment activities in each course. For more information about our QEP and its implementation, please visit our QEP website at <http://www.ncat.edu/qep>.