

Our Lady of the Lake University
411 SW 24th Street
San Antonio, Texas 78207

QEP Title: QuEST – Quality Education for Student Transformation

QEP Contact: Yvette D. Benavides
Associate Professor of English
ybenavides@ollusa.edu

QEP Executive Summary

Our Lady of the Lake University's QEP is named QuEST – Quality Education for Student Transformation. The plan's goals are to increase the number of first year students that successfully complete college-level math and English by the end of their freshmen year; and to accelerate students' progress into their major. The strategy to achieve the goals is to provide increased instructional contact hours to facilitate intensive focus on English and mathematics college-level learning outcomes. Classes meet daily (four days a week) and include lecture and lab sections. Faculty members are joined by supplemental assistants on the two laboratory days. Individualized instruction also extends the contact hours.

To date, students in English 1313 INT, Composition I, meet daily Mondays and Wednesdays in lecture sessions. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they meet as "lab" sections with the instructor and a "writing coach." Together, the instructors work with students in various activities—peer review, group conferencing, grammar review, discussion groups, research, and the like. The "embedded librarian" model as part of our implementation strategy allows us to address students' needs in the area of information literacy. From our work with our students thus far has emerged the need to establish an *individualized instruction plan* for students requiring additional help due to language interference issues and the like. Additionally, we have established "*Grammar Boot Camps*" held three times a week on various days/times to help students address issues related to sentence errors. We are also working to more formally establish a "*Rhetoric Boot Camp*" for additional supplemental instruction time with our students outside of class.

In MATH 1301, Math for the Liberal Arts, and 1304, College Algebra, classes likewise meet four days a week. The instructor and "coaches" also work two days out of the week with the students in a lab type setting. In the open lab model, students are able to utilize *MyMathLab*, a series of online courses that accompany the Pearson textbooks adopted by the mathematics department. It engages students in active learning. It is modular, self-paced and very accessible. Students are able to use it as long as they have web access. It is also customizable to fit our students' needs.

Student progress will be monitored through a series of assessments. An advisory committee will meet each semester to review student progress and make adjustments to the plan as necessary.