

The Presbyterian College Quality Enhancement Plan: *Implementing the Experiential Component of the Revised General Education Program*

Over a period of several years, Presbyterian College reviewed and revised its general education curriculum. The revised curriculum, adopted in 2005 and mandatory for the Class of 2010, includes an experiential component, which requires of all students a study-abroad experience, an internship or a research experience. To the degree possible, the faculty desired that experiential education be set in the larger context of the College's growing emphasis on intercultural education. As a result, while the faculty has created several ways of fulfilling the experiential component, all require both experiential education and accompanying course work that sets the experience in a broader intercultural context.

The experiential requirement serves to draw together the College's current, and in some cases long standing, experiential options and course work. For many years, the College has offered both semester and year-long study-abroad opportunities, as well as several faculty-led study-travel courses during its Maymester. Together these options have accommodated an average of about 80 students per year. The College has also expanded its internship program over the past 5 years and, as a result, has witnessed a growth from 22 student internships per year to 63 over this same period. Many of the courses necessary for the experiential requirement are already part of the curriculum. However, while the College has provided these options for many years, they have often been developed by departments without any common requirements, coordination or oversight.

In essence, the College's Quality Enhancement Plan is to develop and assess all that is necessary to expand its internship and study-travel programs to include all graduates. (Student research is not included in the initial implementation of the QEP and will be addressed after completion of the *Fifth-Year Interim Report*.) Through the QEP we will develop:

- the budgetary and human resources necessary to support the College's studyabroad and internship programs at higher levels of student and faculty participation;
- the cost, compensation, and tuition structure for students and faculty so that the requirement is within the reach of all;
- the structure for faculty oversight;
- standard policies and procedures for all internships and study abroad experiences;
- standard orientation and "re-entry" programs; and
- a plan to assess student learning outcomes and to improve the programs as a result of it.

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