

# REINHARDT COLLEGE QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

## **THE COMPASS PROJECT:** **IMPROVING READING AND WRITING IN THE FIRST-YEAR**

The goal of the Compass Project is to improve reading and writing among first-year students at Reinhardt College as a part of the Foundations of Excellence. Given the critical importance of first-year student preparation for college-level reading and writing, two student learning outcomes have been designated that include measurable performance expectations for first-year critical reading and written communication. The Compass Project will provide intentional learning experiences that target first-year reading and writing improvement and promote student engagement.

To support the Project Goal and to target the first-year student learning outcomes with performance expectations for reading and writing, the following three Project initiatives have been established:

***Initiative 1: The Compass Project will successfully implement an integrated and valid assessment system for the evaluation of first-year reading and writing improvement.***

The assessment system identifies student learning outcomes with performance expectations for first-year reading and writing and specifies criteria for the evaluation of the first-year reading and writing performance expectations through the creation of assessment rubrics. The Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress Test and The First-Year Initiative Assessment will provide additional assessment of reading and writing skills. Assessment results will be collected, analyzed, and reviewed to interpret formative and summative assessment evidence for evaluation of first-year reading and writing improvement from these multiple sources. From these findings recommendations for improvement of reading and writing in the first year will be developed and disseminated to the campus community for first-year reading and writing improvement.

***Initiative 2: The Compass Project will successfully implement a First-Year Seminar.***

The First-Year Seminar will utilize first-year reading and writing assessment rubrics, offer integrated reading, writing, and discussion experiences, and increase the use of engaging pedagogies. This First-Year Seminar will incorporate a Common Reading Program and provide course-integrated reading and writing support services.

***Initiative 3: The Compass Project will successfully implement faculty development for First-Year Seminar instructors.***

Faculty training will be provided in how to use course-embedded rubrics to diagnose first-year student competency in reading and writing, provide immediate academic assistance, and measure growth in reading and writing development. The faculty will be provided with intentional learning experiences that integrate reading, writing, and discussion, employ engaging pedagogies that strengthen first-year reading and writing, and incorporate a Common Reading Program to enhance first-year reading and writing. Reinhardt's Center for Student Success will work in partnership with faculty to provide course-integrated reading and writing support services.

These three Project initiatives will work in concert as a means of planning, implementing, and evaluating strategies that will lead to improved critical reading and written communication among the College's first-year students.

For information on the development and implementation of the QEP, please contact:

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