

Global Learning for Success

Saint Augustine's College

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Executive Summary

After soliciting input from core campus constituencies in selecting and developing a topic for its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Saint Augustine's College chose "Global Learning for Success." Saint Augustine's College uses the American Council on Education's (2010) definition of global learning: "the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that students acquire through a variety of experiences that enable them to understand world cultures and events; analyze global systems; appreciate cultural differences; and apply this knowledge and appreciation to their lives as citizens and workers." The knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to excel in a global society are more critical than ever at this time of economic uncertainty. Employers seek employees who can engage in various cultures, and who can understand the complexities, nuances, and challenges of such engagement. Beyond the workplace, global knowledge, skills, and attitudes are needed to successfully navigate this ever-changing, culturally diverse world. Our QEP is designed to help our students develop this global competency through both academic and social experiences.

Saint Augustine's College's QEP will strengthen students' global learning through: 1) extending of our freshman studies course from one semester to two semesters, integrating global learning and culminating in a global learning project; 2) transforming our residence halls, serving 40-50 students, into a Global Living Learning Community; and 3) developing of a Global Service Learning Project into our existing Service Learning Program.

With a diverse student population and a mission focused, in part, on experiential learning and understanding cultural differences, a QEP that promotes global learning fits with the history and mission of Saint Augustine's College. In addition, it expands the foundation of global learning activities and programs already in place at Saint Augustine's College. The adoption of this QEP will ensure a systematic approach and program to encourage students to experience culture and diversity. The overarching goal for Saint Augustine's College QEP is to ensure that students have global learning opportunities that will increase their global competency and help them attain four specific student learning outcomes. As a result of our QEP initiatives, Saint Augustine's College students will:

1. Incorporate a comparative understanding of world cultures into their general knowledge;
2. Understand the relationship of power and language, and how language interacts with culture;
3. Locate, analyze, and synthesize information to provide a solution for a global issue;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the ideas and values expressed in at least one world culture.