

Shorter University Quality Enhancement Plan: Christ-Centered Critical Thinking

Christ-Centered Critical Thinking is the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focusing on promoting a Christ-centered worldview and on improving critical thinking skills. This QEP focus evolved from broad-based involvement in chosen topic themes, from institutional research, and from a strong desire to fulfill Shorter University's Mission and eight Educational Principles.

The Shorter University QEP Team, Curriculum Committee, and SACS Leadership Team approved the program goal of creating a 3-credit hour, general education course, LAR 2514/INTR 2514 Christ-Centered Critical Thinking, to be required of all students in the traditional and in the nontraditional programs. Three learner outcomes were set, as follows:

1. The student will demonstrate application of a Christ-centered worldview for ethical decision-making.
2. Using a Christ-centered worldview, the student will apply the intellectual standards to the elements of reasoning, as defined by The Foundation for Critical Thinking.
3. The student will demonstrate growth in intellectual traits of critical thinking, as defined by The Foundation for Critical Thinking.

A review of the literature and of best practices resulted in assessment plans consisting of classroom debate and of pre- and post-test of students' critical thinking skills. The online standardized test, *International Critical Thinking Basic Concepts and Understanding*, will measure students' critical thinking skills. The Critical Thinking Rubric and Grid will be used to assess debates. The Critical Thinking Rubric and Grid is an internally generated measurement composed of sections of the Critical Thinking Rubric developed by The Foundation for Critical Thinking, by best practices for supporting a Christian worldview, and by best practices for oral communication.

Shorter has the institutional capacity to hire two new faculty lines housed in the Liberal Arts Department and to provide ongoing professional development for existing faculty to teach them how to integrate faith and learning to support the University's mission and to improve student learning. Shorter is committed to promoting a passion in students for living what they believe and for engaging the world on issues of great importance such as human trafficking, famine, genocide, justice, and Christian values.

For further information, please contact:

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