

## **Real-World Ready**

### **Southeastern Louisiana University's Quality Enhancement Plan**

Experiential learning provides opportunities for students to practice in a setting that is authentic to advancing their intended careers. Experiential learning falls into categories that will vary by discipline and academic major, including but not limited to internships, service-learning, undergraduate research, civic engagement, study abroad/away, field experiences, creative activities, practice, hands-on learning, mentoring, leadership training, students teaching, and apprenticeships.

The primary goal of the Real-World Ready (RWR) initiative at Southeastern is:

- *to prepare students for a professional life after academics by providing authentic learning opportunities that connect academic courses with real-world experiences.*

Southeastern is enhancing and expanding experiential-learning opportunities through a three-phased approach that establishes infrastructure, launches specific projects, and expands coordination and assessment efforts campus wide. By the fourth year of RWR, every undergraduate degree program will have an experiential component integrated into at least one existing course. Common characteristics of these experiences will be identified and assessed using common measures and rubrics to ensure that all students are meeting a common set of expectations.

RWR provides students the opportunity to apply their discipline in a professional context. Four outcomes will be the measure of student learning:

1. Students will apply professional (discipline-specific) knowledge in an authentic setting.
2. Students will demonstrate effective communication in a professionally authentic form.
3. Students will reflect on their work—identifying strengths and weaknesses of product and process; and deriving directions for future efforts.
4. Students' professional behaviors will reflect a commitment to quality work.

The Division of Academic Affairs administers Real-World Ready. QEP Coordinator, Dr. Jayetta Slawson ([realworldready@southeastern.edu](mailto:realworldready@southeastern.edu)) directs all aspects of RWR with guidance from the Provost and the Real-World Ready Advisory Council. The Advisory Council provides general advice and assistance, including review of the RWR programs, input about skills Southeastern students need in the workplace, and strategies for improving the initiative. An Experiential Learning Team, consisting of faculty members from various disciplines, promotes Real-World Ready activities, mentors faculty and students, and presents training workshops. Faculty members may apply for grants to enhance or add an experiential component to a class.