



The Sweet Briar College **y:1** program is designed to accelerate first-year students' intellectual and academic engagement, provide opportunities for first-year students to improve their critical thinking and digital literacy skills, and increase the persistence of first-year students. As a result of participating in the **y:1** program, first-year students will demonstrate increased levels of participation in activities associated with active and collaborative learning, demonstrate increased levels of critical thinking and digital literacy skills, and be more successful in persisting to their second-year of college.

The process for developing the Quality Enhancement Plan was and continues to be a recursive and iterative process at Sweet Briar. As the planning for the QEP progressed, the concept of the plan evolved with increasingly broader campus conversations and involvement of the various constituents across the campus and wider community.

Ultimately, the College's evaluation of results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), internal assessments pertaining to first-year student retention, research and program reviews conducted by the QEP Selection and Implementation committees, and voluminous information and feedback gathered from a broad base of campus constituencies during the QEP development process, contributed to the College's decision to select the **y:1** program as its Quality Enhancement Plan.

The Quality Enhancement Plan calls for an initial two-year pilot phase of the program. In the fall of 2011, the **y:1** program will be piloted with four groups of 15 first-year students. The program incorporates a full-year of activities including a common reading experience, related orientation programming, first-year seminars, and subsequent enrollment in a writing-intensive English course. Students will also work with digital information and media through activities embedded throughout the program.

Further implementation of the Quality Enhancement Plan will be informed by the lessons learned during the pilot phase.

For more information contact:

Christy Cole  
Accreditation Liaison  
Director of Institutional Research  
Sweet Briar College  
134 Chapel Road  
Sweet Briar, VA 24595  
[ccole@sbc.edu](mailto:ccole@sbc.edu)  
434-381-6530