

Executive Summary of Quality Enhancement Plan – Texas Lutheran University
“Engaging Students in a Culture of Scholarship:
Enhancing Our Community of Learning for a Changing Student Body”

Goal

The overarching goal of TLU’s QEP is to improve students’ learning and success by intentionally engaging them in a mission-driven culture of scholarship through enhanced first-year, capstone, and advising programs.

Overview

TLU is working to adapt to the changing face of its student body as increasing numbers of under-prepared and/or first-generation college students arrive on campus. These demographic factors, coupled with the traditional college-age difficulty of integrating academic and co-curricular life, have increased the difficulty of accomplishing our mission of linking education with vocation, leadership and service.

TLU’s Quality Enhancement Plan focuses on advancing our mission by more intentionally connecting life in the classroom with co-curricular activities, and engaging students who might otherwise be left behind. The Plan includes three components:

A reinvigorated First Year Experience will link coursework with co-curricular activities through the use of the peer mentors and a semester-defining Krost Symposium. A new advising tool, the Comprehensive Education Plan, will make clear connections between students’ increasing social involvement in the life of the university and the academic goals of the school. The Student Academic Symposium will draw on the best of our students’ academic work to create a culminating academic and social celebration of scholarship.

Learning Outcomes, Strategies, and Assessment

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes for the QEP are drawn from TLU’s Institutional Goals for Graduates. These Goals were established by TLU’s faculty as a means of defining the student’s learning experience at the university. Organized into the categories of *Knowing*, *Doing*, and *Becoming*, the Goals are tied to the university’s mission statement. Additional expected learning outcomes are enhanced student *awareness* of these Goals, how they relate to their daily academic and co-curricular activities, and a more intentionally planned and integrated college experience.

Strategies

1. First Year Experience
2. Comprehensive Education Plan
3. Student Academic Symposium

Assessment

Qualitative and quantitative assessments will include collection of baseline data and concomitant comparisons, questionnaires, and the use of stratified random samples of students who will participate in focus groups. Students from the stratified sample will be assessed annually by both quantitative and qualitative means to track their cultural experience. Future responses to selected National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) questions will be compared to past results. Changes in quantitative criteria such as retention rates, participation rates and others will be tracked. Annual reviews of instruments and focus group questions will be conducted to ensure continued effectiveness, and changes will be made as needed.

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