



## Executive Summary

**Connect 360: The Eagle Experience** seeks to engage students at a deeper level in the learning process by improving the quality and increasing the number of experiential learning opportunities across the undergraduate curriculum. Experiential Learning (EL) at Texas A&M-University-Texarkana (A&M-Texarkana) may take many forms, including internships, practicums, clinical activities, co-curricular collaboration, scholarship, service learning, community engagement, and active, creative activities within or outside of the classroom.

**Student Learning Outcome:** The University has adopted the following as a primary student learning outcome that will guide this plan:

Students enrolled in experiential learning designated courses will demonstrate the ability to apply experience-based knowledge of their disciplines to practical problems.

**Development of Topic:** Connect 360 was developed with the involvement and contributions of faculty, staff, students, and the greater A&M-Texarkana community. The goal is that all present and future faculty and students will come to naturally adopt experiential learning as an integral element of university education. To that end, A&M-Texarkana has committed fiscal and human resources for faculty development, curricular modifications, unique programming across the campus, and evaluation strategies to consistently monitor progress.

**Program Highlights:** Connect 360 will highlight and fund experiential learning as a strategic priority of the university to

- provide faculty with support and resources to enhance experiential learning strategies already present within their disciplines,
- increase the number of experiential learning courses,
- improve the quality of experiential learning courses,
- ensure that every undergraduate has at least one experiential learning opportunity, and
- support programs that wish to integrate experiential learning throughout their curricula.

**Assessment:** Two main types of assessment will be collected over the five-year period of the QEP:

- 1) Implementation Evaluations that include data collected on experiential learning activities such as staff and faculty development opportunities, number of faculty trained in EL, number of students who participate in EL activities, and stakeholder surveys, and
- 2) Outcomes Assessment that includes course-embedded assessment of student learning outcomes in the student's discipline of study using a modified rubric based on the AAC&U VALUE Rubric for Integrative Learning and end-of-course evaluations.

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