

Union University – QEP Summary: Writing Enhancement at Union University

Union University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Writing Enhancement at Union, is designed to strengthen student writing, specifically by establishing a Writing Center and providing pedagogical and curricular support for writing. The QEP will impact traditional, adult, and multilingual undergraduate students and fits with Union's current strategic plan, "United in Spirit. Grounded in Truth," in two ways. First, it aims to *develop leaders for the future*: The Writing Center and enhanced curricular support for writing will promote the effective written communication skills that are vital for successful leadership. Second, it will *support meaningful research among students*: The Writing Center will support students as they learn to communicate research findings.

The QEP was developed in a collaborative and reflective campus-wide process, beginning with a topic selection committee that sought input from various constituencies including faculty, staff, and students. The committee gathered data to support the development of the QEP, identifying the best options to impact student learning at the University. This collaborative process culminated in Writing Enhancement at Union, an initiative focused on the following goals designed to support and improve student writing: **Goal #1**: Students will strengthen foundational writing skills and **Goal #2**: Students will demonstrate proficiency in discipline-specific writing.

To achieve these goals and their subsequent learning outcomes, the University has committed itself to the implementation of a Writing Center with qualified faculty and staff to support campus-wide writing communities. The Writing Center will serve as the hub of writing enhancement, a means to provide students with resources needed to enhance writing, beginning with the freshman year and extending into the completion of the major. Additionally, the Writing Center will equip undergraduate students with resources aimed at building upon their foundational writing skills to develop a scholarly voice in their disciplines. The plan includes a focus on 1) foundational writing skills in First Year Composition (FYC) or English 111 and English 112; and 2) discipline-specific writing in eight Writing Intensive (WI) courses, each guided by the Writing Center Director.

Multiple measures will be used to assess QEP goals and related outcomes. Tools to measure student-learning practices will consist of common rubrics, student and faculty surveys, focus groups, and external measures including the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), the Educational Testing Service (ETS) Proficiency Profile, and the Cooperative Institutional Research Program's (CIRP) College Freshman Survey and College Senior Survey. All of these tools will allow for the continual gauging of performance among students in both foundational writing courses and discipline-specific writing courses.

Writing Enhancement at Union will greatly impact the future of the University as it supports Union's Core Values as being "Excellence-driven, Christ-centered, People-focused, and Future-directed."

Contact: Christine Bailey, Ph.D. (cbailey@uu.edu)
Chair, QEP Development Team & Interim Director of the Writing Center