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Quality Enhancement Plan

Title: ACCESS for Success in Sports Education Research

Institution’s Name: United States Sports Academy

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Executive Summary

ACCESS for Success in Sports Education Research summarizes in one phrase the approach the United States Sports Academy (Academy) will take in addressing the issue of improving student research through its second Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The Academy’s first QEP, called the “Academy Center of Collegiate Excellence and Student Success” (ACCESS), focused on improving students’ general writing skills.

The second iteration of the QEP will expand on those general writing skills and develop a program designed to enhance the students’ abilities to design, develop, investigate, and report on research at the undergraduate level. This program includes developing helpful tutorials and research guides, implementing more research-based writing assignments in undergraduate courses, and adding a research core to the undergraduate curriculum that includes a research statistics course and a senior research project.

The primary goal of this effort is to improve the Academy students’ ability to think critically and engage in effective research at the undergraduate level. Upon successful completion of the undergraduate research program, each student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the knowledge required to conduct effective undergraduate research.
2. Locate the information/data needed to support effective undergraduate research.
3. Recognize the credibility (or lack thereof) of sources, information, and data necessary for effective undergraduate research.
4. Outline the necessary steps in an effective methodology for undergraduate research.
5. Analyze information/data critically to produce coherent results and recommendations based on effective undergraduate research.
6. Demonstrate the ability to present the results of effective undergraduate research.

The QEP Director, along with the institution’s faculty members will lead efforts in the development and implementation of the QEP. The QEP steering committee will assist the QEP Director by overseeing all assessment processes and managing quantitative data relevant to the QEP. In addition, the Institutional Effectiveness Committee will play a critical role reducing and analyzing data relevant to the initiatives of the QEP. The QEP Director will work collaboratively with the QEP steering committee, faculty members, administration, and support staff for the comprehensive coordination and administration of the QEP.