

Learning in a Team Environment

University of Alabama at Birmingham

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The University of Alabama at Birmingham's vision is to be an internationally renowned research university — a first choice for education and health care, and our mission is to be a research university and academic health center that discovers, teaches and applies knowledge for the intellectual, cultural, social and economic benefit of Birmingham, the state and beyond.

The importance of teams was a recurring topic throughout stakeholder conversations, and after careful review and reflection on what UAB is and what it can become, ***Learning in a Team Environment*** was selected as the next UAB QEP topic.

The vision of this QEP topic was further focused to two specific aims:

1. Teach students to succeed in all (appropriate) roles of a team
2. Use these skills to improve student learning

All schools and colleges, from undergraduate to professional, will be participating. The skills UAB students develop as a result of this QEP will allow them to enhance their learning while at UAB, to enhance their engagement throughout all academic activities, and to enhance their opportunities for success in the workforce upon graduation.

Student learning is at the center of this QEP. Our desired student learning outcomes are that students will demonstrate competence in teamwork behaviors (including interprofessional teaming) and will demonstrate gains in critical thinking through the expanded utilization of team-focused pedagogies, including, but not limited to, Team-based Learning and simulations. By effectively fostering team dynamics and improving team acumen in students at UAB, the implementation of these pedagogies will allow our students to exhibit improved academic outcomes and increased team skills. Student skills in working on teams will be assessed institutionally using the Teamwork VALUE rubric, and enhanced student learning will be assessed institutionally using the Critical Thinking VALUE rubric. Global effects will be assessed by monitoring (and comparing) course success rates, changes in ETS Proficiency Profile gains, National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) data and Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory responses.

The learning environment will also be altered by *Learning in a Team Environment*. The number of courses which enhance student capabilities to work on teams and courses which utilize team-focused pedagogies ("footprint") will be measured institutionally and within schools, colleges and departments to assure breadth of impact on student learning.

Faculty development will be one of the primary tools for implementation. Resources will be dedicated to (1) increasing the staff of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) by adding a 0.5 FTE position and establishing QEP Faculty Fellows to mentor faculty, (2) funding team learning faculty development projects selected by the CTL advisory board, and (3) funding unit-based projects that will serve as seeds for further growth in footprint or quality.

Learning in a Team Environment will be led by a full-time Director who reports through the Office of the Provost. Assessment will be managed by the UAB Center for Education Accountability. Advisory, Implementation and Assessment committees will have defined responsibilities in assuring the success of this QEP.