

Institution: University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, Texas

Title of UNTHSC Quality Enhancement Program (QEP): Building Higher Order Thinking Skills in Tomorrow's Health Care Professionals (the "HOT" plan).

Responsible Individual: Dr. Vanneise Collins, Director for the Center for Learning and Development, UNT Health Science Center

The focus of the UNTHSC QEP is to improve students' Higher Order Thinking (HOT) skills across the health sciences curricula through faculty development in curricular delivery methods and course redesign.

The two goals of UNTHSC's HOT program are to 1) improve and evaluate students' higher order thinking skills and 2) improve and evaluate faculty knowledge and practice in implementing instructional strategies and assessment tools that cultivate students' higher order thinking skills.

Faculty in ten targeted courses of the HOT program will define student-learning outcomes using one or more of the top cognitive levels of Bloom's taxonomy. The four schools across the Health Science Center have identified selected core competencies that require students to develop or demonstrate higher order thinking skills. Furthermore, each school has selected a curricular delivery method for its HOT program courses that is in keeping with philosophy of engaging adult learners.

The UNTHSC HOT program assessment plan evaluates the accomplishments in each of the two goals using measurable outcomes. Multiple methods of assessment are incorporated to determine effectiveness of the QEP in meeting its goals. The HOT program will be continuously assessed throughout a five-year period and revised based on results. Dissemination of results to stakeholders, including faculty, students, staff, and community, will occur quarterly with a more complete report annually.

The QEP goals have also been integrated into two essential UNTHSC documents: the Five-Year Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2011-2015 and our 2011 Academic Affairs Tactical Initiatives.

An institutional plan focusing on **Building Students' Higher Order Thinking Skills in Tomorrow's Health Care Professionals** will play an essential role in improving student-learning outcomes. **Hence, UNTHSC's QEP is a HOT plan.**