

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Executive Summary
Quantitative Scholarship: From Literacy to Mastery

In our current data-rich global environment, there is a critical need for students to have quantitative reasoning skills necessary to understand and evaluate data in order to make informed decisions. UTSA's QEP addresses this need by providing students with quantitative skills through an enhanced curriculum focused on contextual learning. The mission and goals of the QEP are aligned with UTSA's Strategic Plan and directly support the University's first strategic initiative to enrich the educational experience of its graduates.

The student learning goals of the QEP will help undergraduate students (a) acquire basic quantitative literacy and numeracy skills, (b) effectively communicate the results of their quantitative analysis, and (c) acquire discipline-specific advanced quantitative skills. The primary focus of enhancing student learning to develop quantitatively trained graduates is achieved through a well-designed curriculum that seamlessly integrates these skills in courses across the undergraduate curriculum. All undergraduate students will be required to complete at least one quantitatively enhanced course (Q-course) prior to graduation.

The first phase of the implementation, scheduled for Fall 2011, focuses on courses in the Natural Sciences and Social and Behavioral Sciences domains of the University's core curriculum. The Program Committee has already received several proposals for the curriculum redesign program. Faculty members participating in the QEP will receive summer support and participate in an intensive summer training program to help with course redesign and assessment. A comprehensive assessment and evaluation plan has been developed. The assessment results will be used to monitor the progress of the plan and make continuous improvements as needed.

The University has committed \$4 million of new funds over the five-year period, with a majority of the budget allocated for instructional support. Over the next five years, the QEP envisions the creation of an exemplary program that will transform the environment to one where quantitative reasoning skills are ingrained in not only the curriculum, but also the culture of UTSA.

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