

The **University of North Alabama's** Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), ***Building Success through Discovery***, focuses on engaging students in *undergraduate research*, defined as the specific reading, data and information collection, analysis, and presentation skills (written or oral) required to successfully participate in problem-solving within any given discipline and career. Over the course of this multi-year project, the University seeks to infuse research into all undergraduate academic programs and to encourage all undergraduates to participate in research through ***Building Success through Discovery***.

UNA's QEP was developed on the belief that *discovery*—the sense of being curious, asking a question, exploring the possible answers, and explaining the results—is at the heart of academic research. Thus, through the course of the QEP students will acquire an understanding of the research process within their discipline, have opportunities to apply research skills, and consequently, increase their ability to analyze, think critically, and make informed decisions.

Faculty members will mentor and guide students in developing research skills as a part of a required three-course sequence in each academic program. By systematically incorporating ***Building Success through Discovery*** into the existing academic programs departments and faculty members will be able to more effectively instruct students in the academic research foundations of their discipline.

To determine overall effectiveness of the program, a formal assessment process will include use of a customizable, common rubric to evaluate all QEP-related assignments. The QEP student learning outcomes will be integrated into academic programs and courses in three levels: Level I – 100, 200 or 300 level classes; Level II – 200, 300 or 400 level classes; and Level III – 300 or 400 level classes. Following completion of the QEP undergraduate students should be able to do the following:

1. Formulate a clear research question, thesis statement, research problem, or hypothesis;
2. Collect information or data relevant to the research problem;
3. Evaluate and analyze information to effectively address the research problem; and
4. Present findings or results using a discipline-specific medium.

Building Success through Discovery encourages students to *discover* through the application of academic research which leads to *building* for *success* in their future careers.

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