

Overview

Valdosta State University (VSU) is a community of scholars in a culture of excellence. The propagation of scholarship through teaching, research, and service is our reason for being. As such, VSU identified *Undergraduate Engagement in Discipline-Based Inquiry*¹ as its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Undergraduate Engagement in Discipline-Based Inquiry provides students with focused opportunities for engaging with faculty in research and scholarly activities appropriate to the discipline. In the first of two iterations of Discipline-Based Inquiry Projects, six projects were selected to reflect undergraduate engagement in laboratory, classroom, and/or field research and to allow students to interact personally with, and be mentored by, a faculty member. The first iteration involves six projects, 12 faculty members, and approximately 150 undergraduate students from four of the five undergraduate colleges at VSU. The QEP Coordinator oversees the QEP, while a faculty coordinator for each Discipline-Based Inquiry Project has overall responsibility for the administration and management of his or her project. The second iteration of projects occurs in year 3 and assessments occurring throughout the five years.

QEP Goals

The QEP supports the development of innovative projects for undergraduate students which focus on engagement in discipline-based inquiry through three goals:

1. Students will develop basic knowledge of discipline-specific inquiry skills.
2. Students will apply discipline-specific inquiry skills from the classroom to resolve a specific question or problem.
3. Students will learn why and how to present the results of discipline-based inquiry in a professional or academic forum.

All six of the selected Discipline-Based Inquiry Projects advance the QEP goals as well as provide opportunities for students to apply their knowledge and research skills outside of the classroom.

Selected Discipline-Based Inquiry Projects for Iteration 1:

- “Cutting Edge Cancer Research with Undergraduates” (College of Arts and Sciences)
- “Summer Archival Field Experience” (College of Arts and Sciences)
- “Investigating Social Inequalities of Hispanic Immigrants through the U.S.-Mexico Borderland Experience” (College of Arts and Sciences)
- “Preparing Scholars of Tomorrow to Effectively Analyze Language Sample Data for Parent-Child Turn Taking” (College of Education)
- “Evidence-Based Practice Strategies for Nursing and Health Care” (College of Nursing)
- “Discovering Unrealized Generational Differences in Kitchen Design Preferences Between Next Generation Interior Designers and Current Resident-Users” (College of the Arts)

Additional Questions

Additional questions can be directed to Dr. Kristina M. Cragg, SACS Liaison and Assistant to the President for Strategic Research and Analysis at kmcragg@valdosta.edu or (229)245-6517.

¹Discipline-based inquiry is defined as problem-based learning in which students learn the analytical and investigative processes of their discipline in an active manner.