

Executive Summary

The ultimate goal of Virginia Union University’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is to improve student learning outcomes through enhancing their (students’) writing. The objectives of this plan reflect and affirm the university’s commitment to enhance the quality of higher education and to support student learning, which is the heart of the mission of Virginia Union University (VUU). This QEP has been developed after an extensive process which included input from key stakeholders of the campus community: faculty, administrators, students, staff and alumni. The QEP is defined as one that will provide opportunities for growth in student learning, confidence, and reinvigorate an academic ethos among students, staff and faculty at Virginia Union University. Strategies for implementation of VUU’s QEP include identifying writing intensive courses with an electronic portfolio requirement, implementing electronic tutoring programs to enhance our Writing Center, publishing a VUU Writing & Grammar Workbook/Handbook, and continuing an ongoing series of faculty development.

The VUU QEP faculty are preparing and equipping themselves to assist in promoting and implementing such a program that will enhance students’ writing achievement. The entire faculty has engaged in faculty development sessions to learn about the QEP strategies and how they will affect the university holistically. The President and the Board of Trustees of the university have approved a generous allotment towards the plan and have expressed genuine desires to witness additions to make this a continuing effort. The Vice President for Academic Affairs has and will continue to dedicate time, input, and skillful efforts for the success and duration of this plan. The university community is dedicated to providing physical and monetary support toward the QEP to bring us one step closer to *“changing the world one person (student) at a time.”*

The institution understands that identifying the actual achievements require substantial information of student learning outcomes as it pertains to writing skills. Therefore, the plan will be evaluated using direct and indirect assessment strategies to document the success of the QEP strategies and the degree to which these strategies impact student learning outcomes. Assessments include performance on standardized achievement measures, surveys capturing the satisfaction of students and faculty, quality analysis of products using a rubric, and post assessments of involved courses.

Virginia Union University formed a multidisciplinary QEP committee comprised of faculty and students to establish the areas of need to be addressed in the university’s plan. The entire faculty and solicited alumni were involved in taking a survey that influenced the decision for the QEP topic. The students of VUU participated in a theme contest that inspired the theme, *Write Here...Write Now!* The theme is being used to publicize the QEP throughout the campus community and the surrounding area to send the message that we take pride in promoting our students’ academic success. In addition, the university has selected a consultant from Spelman College (Atlanta, GA) for advisement to produce an effective writing across the curriculum (WAC) program.

VUU’s selection of the WAC program has allowed the development of a plan that specifies program enhancements, faculty development activities aimed at improving the teaching and learning process across the campus, and specific outcomes for students. This plan is grounded in an analysis of past and current student performance data, a review of best practices in the research and theoretical literature relative to writing and its impact on student learning at the undergraduate level, and the input of stakeholders who will be responsible for the implementation of this plan over a five-year period.

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