



WILLIAM & MARY

CHARTERED 1693

Making Excellence Inclusive: Ensuring Student Engagement in High-Impact Practices

This QEP enhances student learning and the learning environment by accentuating high-impact practices (HIPs) as a recognizable and intentional cornerstone of a William & Mary education. HIPs are already central to the William & Mary experience and are evidenced in the university's general education curriculum (COLL). An integrative, multi-disciplinary approach to the liberal arts, the COLL affirms the centrality of general education in each of the student's four undergraduate years. This QEP focuses on specific skills and approaches to learning that are integral to the liberal arts and that render students life-long learners: the ability to practice synthesis, engage in critical analysis, solve problems, create new knowledge and communicate persuasively. Students are expected to have mastered those skills and approaches prior to the senior-year capstone experience, COLL 400, when selected AAC&U VALUE rubrics will be used to measure performance on the QEP student learning objectives.

The QEP specifies three goals to enhance the learning environment and posits that doing so will support the fourth goal - to enhance student learning. The goals are to:

- (1) Increase the number and types of HIPs that support the learning outcomes of the QEP,
- (2) Ensure students are aware of HIPs and opportunities to participate in them, and
- (3) Increase participation in HIPs, particularly by student groups who are taking less than full advantage of HIP offerings.
- (4) Through improvements in the learning environment, enhance student capabilities as life-long learners, as evidenced by performance on the following learning outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- synthesize knowledge and apply critical analysis,
- solve problems, and
- communicate effectively with different audiences.

The QEP is exploratory. Success will depend on how effectively we define relevant HIPs, build an inventory of qualified HIPs, educate students and the William & Mary community about HIPs, track student participation in HIPs, identify and address barriers to participation, and determine the correlation between participation in HIPs and student learning in order to continually enrich the learning environment for all students and make excellence inclusive.

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