



Explore, Experience, Engage: Get Online @ Blue Ridge



Blue Ridge Community College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), "Explore, Experience, Engage: Get Online @ Blue Ridge" stems from key elements of the College's mission, notably to "...support student learning, [and] enhance student advancement and success." The plan targets online courses by incorporating proven best practices in online education to increase student and faculty engagement in the online learning environment.

Blue Ridge's QEP grew organically out of the College's ongoing, comprehensive planning and evaluation processes. Numerous deficiencies in online course success rates have emerged over the years, particularly when compared with traditional versions of the same courses. In addition, in multiple focus groups and surveys, students, faculty, and staff have voiced concerns about online preparedness and engagement for and from both students and faculty. Those concerns and success disparities in online courses, spanning nearly a decade, led to the selection of the QEP focus on online education.

QEP Overall Goal:

Student success is a priority for the College, thus the overall goal of "Explore, Experience, Engage: Get Online @ Blue Ridge" is to improve student success in online courses, which will be measured in two ways:

- 90% of students enrolled in QEP cohort courses will complete the course.
- 80% of students enrolled in QEP cohort courses will complete the course with a grade of "C" or better.

To reach the goal of increased success, the QEP seeks to create more engagement in online courses. For the purposes of the QEP, engagement is defined as the active pursuit of learning resulting from the collaborative efforts of learners and educators, thus the two sub-goals of the QEP: create more engaged students and create more engaged faculty.

Sub Goal 1—Creating Engaged Students—Student Learning Outcomes:

- SLO1: Online students will identify abilities and behaviors indicative of highly engaged students in an online course.
- SLO2: Online students will demonstrate abilities and behaviors indicative of highly engaged students by collaborating meaningfully with faculty and peers using appropriate technologies.

Sub-Goal 2—Creating Engaged Faculty—Faculty Learning Outcomes:

- FLO1: Online faculty will engage students with higher levels of communication and instructor presence.
- FLO2: Online faculty will construct courses that promote a high level of engagement.

The assessments and strategies to measure and reach these goals and outcomes build upon existing structures at the College, but also introduce new processes, technologies, and support. The College's dedication to the plan is evident in the ample resources committed to both create and administer the plan for its five-year duration.

"Explore, Experience, Engage: Get Online @ Blue Ridge" reflects the College's mission and commitment to the success of its students. By increasing engagement from both students and faculty, the QEP aims to increase success in online courses. As a result of the QEP, Blue Ridge Community College expects continued growth and added value in online teaching and learning.

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