

Institution: Northern Kentucky University
QEP Title: *GEAR UP with Information Literacy*
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Executive Summary

To fulfill its accreditation reaffirmation requirements, Northern Kentucky University (NKU) selected Information Literacy as the topic of its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP is entitled *GEAR UP with Information Literacy* (IL) and emphasizes skills and knowledge related to using information. The emphasis of *GEAR UP* occurs in the following domains:

- Gathering Information
- Evaluating Information
- Applying Information
- Respecting Information

The *GEAR UP* plan focuses on improvement in three areas:

- Student Learning: Students develop the ability to meet the identified learning outcomes
- Faculty/Staff Development: Faculty and staff gain knowledge of information literacy concepts and include IL learning outcomes in courses
- Institutional Change: Offices and programs in both academic and student affairs integrate IL concepts into unit programs' goals/objectives

The plan is designed to improve student learning and academic success by

- Encouraging more purposeful integration of information literacy concepts by faculty and staff in both academic affairs and student affairs
- Reaching an increased number of students across all colleges, disciplines, and course levels
- Enabling a sharper focus on advanced information literacy skills and concepts, especially within the disciplinary context
- Preparing students for research and problem-solving at the university, in the workplace, and at home
- Promoting and supporting both academic and career success

NKU utilized an ongoing, integrated, and research-based institution-wide planning process for the selection of the QEP topic. Students, faculty, staff, and all campus communities were invited to provide input throughout the process via different means such as surveys, forums, etc.

A majority of resources and professional development activities are dedicated to faculty and staff to support the *GEAR UP with Information Literacy* project since they are at the heart of student learning and institutional curricular change. NKU librarians in an expanded Education & Outreach Services (EOS) unit are leading the implementation of GEARUP. EOS librarians collaborate with various units on campus including Institutional Research and the AVP for Assessment to assess all phases and initiatives, report, communicate findings, and recommend actions for improvement. An advisory team made of faculty, students, and staff has also been established as a mechanism to guarantee continuous input and feedback from the campus community.