

ThinkFORWARD – The University of Mississippi’s Critical Thinking QEP

ThinkFORWARD is designed to enhance critical thinking skills among first- and second-year undergraduate students through lower-division, general education courses and co-curricular learning opportunities.

Critical thinking development is skills-based and requires faculty to intentionally design assignments and exercises *within their own disciplinary* courses for improving these skills. With this premise of disciplinary-based development, the definition of critical thinking for the QEP is

the ability to conceptualize problems, gather pertinent information, interpret data, appraise evidence, distinguish diverse points of view, and articulate personal insights, in order to present reasonable and effective arguments, responses, or conclusions.

QEP- Goals & Actions

Goals

ThinkFORWARD produces independent and effective critical thinkers by:

- Cultivating faculty who foster critical thinking
- Providing an environment where students have more engaged learning opportunities

Actions

To achieve these goals, seven major actions will be implemented over a five-year period:

1. Hire a QEP Director to lead faculty development.
2. Create Faculty Approaches to Critical Thinking (FACT) Institute and launch FACT Grants.
3. Align Existing CETL Teaching and Learning Development Activities with QEP.
4. Launch Critical Thinking Redesign Grants (CTR).
5. Create a Critical Thinking Teaching and Learning Guide.
6. Build Critical Thinking Student Cohorts.
7. Redesign Physical Classroom Spaces to Support Critical Thinking.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Conceptualize complex issues or problems;
2. Gather pertinent facts or ideas to explore complex issues or problems;
3. Interpret data and appraise evidence;
4. Distinguish, compare, or contrast diverse points of view and/or alternative conclusions;
5. Articulate personal insights about complex issues or problems; and
6. Communicate a reasonable and effective argument, response, or conclusion.

For More Information:

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