



INFORMATION LITERACY

AT LAKE-SUMTER STATE COLLEGE

QEP Executive Summary

Improving Information Literacy Skills Across the Curriculum

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Lake-Sumter State College focuses on Information Literacy. According to the Association of College and Research Libraries (2015), “information literacy is the set of integrated abilities encompassing the reflective discovery of information, the understanding of how information is produced and valued, and the use of information in creating new knowledge and participating ethically in communities of learning.” The QEP embraces the College’s vision to “transform students through academic excellence” (Lake-Sumter State College, 2020). The project results from the College’s ongoing comprehensive planning and evaluation processes as part of the strategic plan, and it expands on the work already in progress related to this critical academic and life skill.

The QEP seeks to strengthen student information literacy skills through a multi-disciplinary faculty collaboration model. An early version of this model, known as the Librarian Intervention Model (LIM), has been employed in first-year composition classes. Librarians were embedded in the learning management system and assisted directly with research help, citations, information literacy concepts, and technology concerns. This partnership focuses on essential aspects of information literacy as described by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) framework. Based on these early successes, the LIM model will be modified and expanded to other disciplines at the College.

To expand participation in the LIM model, individual faculty members will be trained as Information Literacy Ambassadors (ILA) to assist librarians with the project and expand participation in the LIM model. Potential ILAs will receive professional development training and a stipend for their services. The plan focuses on a train-the-trainer program, whereby ILAs and librarians work collaboratively with faculty to teach information literacy concepts to their students. Information Literacy Summits are envisioned as an annual vehicle for collaborative assessment where faculty will interact to share their classroom experiences and best practices.

The QEP seeks to create a strong basis for fundamental and long-lasting information literacy skills across the curriculum. It will support individual faculty members and help them strengthen assignments within their courses. Moreover, librarians and ILAs will be available for various levels of optional “interventions” throughout the semester to support students’ research learning needs. Faculty and staff serving as ILAs will review assessment data using the shared information literacy rubric and discuss ongoing improvements.

This program will benefit students by providing a more consistent application of best practices and a better understanding of information literacy standards and concepts. Assessment of student outcomes will occur via individual assignments in a wide variety of courses using the information literacy rubric, providing data and composite scores. Also, intermediary assessments (pre/post-test and quizzes to assess student learning and success as they complete their research assignments) will help track students’ improvement. All activities will be further assessed in annual QEP Summits including the QEP team, deans, and related faculty members to measure progress.

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