



ENGAGE: ACHIEVING STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH ACTIVE LEARNING

Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

Active learning has occurred at some level since AdventHealth University (AHU) first opened its doors with courses that complemented by labs for students to practice healthcare skills. As the University has grown, so has a deeper understanding of active learning based on Bonwell's definition describing students who actively engage in relevant learning versus the passive learning that occurs with traditional lecture (Prince, 2004). A significant amount of literature supports the use of active learning as an effective method to improve student learning in knowledge acquisition and application which are needed for student success in their chosen healthcare profession.

AHU defines active learning as an approach that engages students to participate in the learning process to expand their knowledge by thinking, discussing, investigating, and creating. AHU's definition of active learning is rooted in Bonwell and Eisen's (1991) definition as "instructional activities involving students in doing things and thinking about what they are doing". Carr et al. (2015) elaborated on examples to include working with other students on projects, contributions to class discussions, service-learning projects, and role play or simulations. LoPresto and Slater (2016) postulated that increased student learning occurs in environments where student-centric collaboration and multimodal techniques are adopted.

The AHU Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) has three primary goals: 1) increase the use of active learning strategies in AHU courses, 2) increase student learning through knowledge application in their course of study, and 3) increase student success in completion of academic degree. To achieve these goals, AHU has the support of its stakeholders, the allocation of sufficient resources, as well-designed assessment plan with direct and indirect measures, and a strong desire to improve student learning and student success. Faculty development resources and educational opportunities have been created to support faculty growth in providing effective active learning strategies for students. This will in turn empower students to take ownership of their learning through association of concepts within a course and apply those to courses across their field of study in pursuit of their degree, and beyond to their future career.

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