

Rhodes College

Contact information: Brian Braskich, Director of Assessment, braskichb@rhodes.edu

Quality Enhancement Plan: "The First-Year Seminar"

Executive Summary

Rhodes College developed a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that aligns with the mission of the College and its new strategic plan, *Achieving our Best: A Strategic Vision for Rhodes College 2020-2030*. Framed by best practices drawn from multiple sources, our QEP is the result of three years of collaborative planning, assessment, and revision that included senior administrators, faculty, staff, and students. The purpose of Rhodes' QEP is to offer a First-Year Seminar that helps students develop skills to become informed, active, and engaged citizens. More specifically, we aim for students to develop the skills to thrive in a liberal arts context, develop a sense of community and belonging, and begin to engage Rhodes, Memphis, and the wider world as active citizens.

Our QEP has broad-based support and has engaged students, staff, faculty, and college leadership. We have committed substantial institutional resources to the QEP and sought external funding to support this initiative as well. We have appointed a new faculty director of the First-Year Seminar and have received funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to gather a cohort of faculty in a community of practice focused on the revision of our first-year seminar course. Members of the community of practice will read and reflect together as they craft their own versions of a first-year seminar that will spark intellectual curiosity while utilizing pedagogies that support our common learning goals.