



South Carolina

Experience by Design

Executive Summary for University of South Carolina Quality Enhancement Plan

The University of South Carolina (UofSC), including the Columbia campus and four regional branch 2-year Palmetto College campuses of Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union, is embarking on a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), ***Experience by Design***, with an overarching goal focused on beyond the classroom (BTC) engagement and reflection for all students. Engagements have been shown to improve student success and reflection on those engagements deepens the impact. Our own institutional data shows that identified student groups with lower graduation and retention rates than expected also have lower rates of BTC engagement. As such, we will focus ***Experience by Design*** on those student populations, including engaging Underrepresented Minority, Pell-eligible, Transfer and identified Male students. We are excited to extend our first QEP on integrative learning (including Graduation with Leadership Distinction with ePortfolio emphasis) into one that is more inclusive and more impactful and that aligns well with the new university strategic plan established in 2020.

The topic selection emerged from review of institutional planning documents (including the recently established strategic plan and key findings from our earlier efforts), extensive outreach, QEP subcommittee activity, examination of scholarly literature and institutional best practices.

QEP efforts will focus on:

- An emphasis on interventions (e.g., customized BTC engagements, reflection opportunities, funding for beyond the classroom experiences) and associated targeted marketing (e.g., social media campaigns and events) for specific student populations.
- Supporting students in developing reflection skills based upon their UofSC experiences and to think about them in connection with academic, personal, and professional goals.
- Support for faculty and staff in developing and expanding BTC engagement and reflection opportunities across curricular and co-curricular settings that are inclusive and impactful.
- Exploring relationships between engagement and student success metrics (e.g., retention, graduation rates, employment) as well as linkages to student learning on reflection.

Experience by Design will be coordinated by the Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning (CIEL) with extensive collaborative partnerships spanning the Columbia and Palmetto College campuses and across academic affairs, student affairs, and information technology units. Performance across identified student learning outcomes and student success metrics will be documented, regularly reviewed, and acted upon so that the institution can continually address QEP goals and adapt to the changing higher education environment.

In summary, UofSC is poised to enhance student learning and student success for all students through emphasis on quality beyond the classroom experiences originating from curricular and co-curricular environments and targeted intervention with specific student subpopulations. Reflection will be emphasized to further advance students' understanding of experiences in the context of personal, professional, and academic goals.

Experience by Design will play a key role in supporting the goals of the 2020 UofSC strategic plan and demonstrating the powerful benefits of a UofSC degree.

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