



CITIZENS:
Civic Literacy, Civic Discernment, and Civic Engagement
QEP Executive Summary

The mission of Welch College is “to educate leaders to serve Christ, His church, and His world through biblical thought and life.” Welch College’s QEP arises out of this mission to produce leaders who can bring the values of Christ’s kingdom to bear on the surrounding culture. The desired outcome of **CITIZENS** is for students to understand their civic responsibilities and to become leaders in cultural service, impact, and transformation.

Choosing the Topic

Broad SWOT analyses conducted in preparation for the 2020-2030 Welch College Strategic Plan identified a lack of knowledge among students about current events, political processes, and civic issues and demonstrated a desire to provide greater service to the local community. While civic engagement is covered at various places throughout the curriculum, more focused attention was needed. Selecting **CITIZENS** as the college’s QEP allows for development of a new general education course designed to formulate greater civic knowledge in Welch College students and to stimulate a greater sense of urgency for their leadership and involvement in society.

Action Items

- Create a new general education core course covering Civics from a Christian perspective.
- Implement new civic-oriented service learning opportunities through Christian Service.
- Use co-curricular offerings to highlight Christian views of citizenship and service.

Student Learning Goals and Measurable Outcomes

The overall goal of the QEP is to increase civic knowledge and disposition for engagement among students during the course of their college career at Welch.

Civic Literacy: Students will understand the fundamental principles of democracy in a representative government or republic.

- As a minimum threshold, fifty percent of students completing the HEIghten Civic Competency and Engagement Assessment will score at or above the national norm. An aspirational goal will be that 80% of students completing the HEIghten Civic Competency and Engagement Assessment will score at or above the national norm.

Civic Discernment: Students will be able to effectively evaluate different forms of government and their implications for public policy and civic life.

- Ninety percent of students in the course IDS 2101 Foundations for Civic Engagement will demonstrate competency in civic engagement by articulating the principles of democracy in a democratic republic (civic literacy) and by applying them to a particular public policy issue (civic discernment). “Competency” is determined by committee review of submitted assignments judged by the developed rubric.

Civic Action: Students will be committed to the promotion of human flourishing in individual, social, and public life.

- Ninety percent of students will demonstrate Civic Action competency in a reflection assignment based upon their volunteer Civic Action Assignment(s) while enrolled in IDS 2101 Foundations for Civic Engagement. “Competency” is determined by committee review of submitted assignments judged by the developed rubric.