



Abilene Christian University Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

ACU LEADS: A Leadership Skills Development Initiative was developed to enhance the leadership knowledge and skills of its incoming undergraduate students and elected student organization leaders. LEADS stands for “leading, educating and developing servants” and specifically focuses on servant leadership. The QEP rests on a vision for enhancing student leadership development at ACU and reflects both the mission of the university (“To educate students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world”) and its strategic plan, which focuses generally on experiential learning and directly on student organizations as an opportunity for leadership skills development. More specifically, the plan attempts to (1) prepare emerging student leaders through a cohesive education related to the theory and opportunities for leadership at ACU and (2) equip elected student organization leaders through a leadership pathway that leverages experiential learning opportunities and mentoring to teach students new skills.

The QEP first seeks to broaden incoming students’ knowledge of non-positional-based leadership dimensions and provide them with awareness of tangible opportunities for leadership at ACU in the Emerging Leader Track. This track will focus on undergraduate students as they begin their studies at ACU’s main campus. Reaching out to students as they are oriented to the university, this initiative will connect incoming students to the mission of the university, broaden their understanding of servant leadership, and invite them to complete the Emerging Leaders badge over the course of their first year.

The QEP also serves to equip elected student organization leaders to use knowledge of positional-based leadership dimensions through experiential learning and mentoring in the Elected Leader Track. This track will focus on elected student organization leaders at ACU’s main campus. ACU will again leverage its existing investment in and commitment to the Compass initiative by developing an Elected Leaders badge, which will require all presidents/senior officers of student organizations to complete a set of activities to earn the badge. Another key component of this track is better support and equipping for faculty and staff members who serve as student organization advisors. This will allow ACU to provide a more consistent mentoring experience for its elected student leaders.

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