

Executive Summary

Bruins Engage! is a University-wide effort to improve student learning outcomes and student success by providing learning experiences that enable students to experience, connect, and transform. Experiential learning offers a holistic approach to education that helps close the gap between classroom content and “real world” problem-solving and promotes critical thinking in more authentic situations than classrooms often provide. BJU’s QEP topic was selected and developed based on institutional assessment data with input and support from constituencies across the campus. It supports the university’s strategic plan with its emphasis on engaged learning. BJU has committed extensive resources to implement the program and develop faculty to create these types of experiential learning courses. The program will be assessed using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Bob Jones University’s first Quality Enhancement Plan—*Bruins Engage!*—creates a framework in which all residential undergraduate students will participate in experiential learning opportunities (EXPs) that will empower them to develop their God-given potential to learn, love, and lead. Approved EXPs may include internships, global engagement, research, service/community service, leadership, and other intensive project-based in-class experiences.

The goals and outcomes for *Bruins Engage!* are as follows:

Goal 1: Create a culture of **experiential** learning at BJU.

Outcome 1.1: All residential baccalaureate students will successfully complete two approved experiential learning opportunities (EXPs) prior to graduation.

Outcome 1.2: All residential associate students will successfully complete one EXP prior to graduation.

Goal 2: Strengthen students’ ability to **connect** the EXP to biblical worldview and coursework.

SLO 2.1: Students will be able to **connect** the EXP to biblical worldview.

SLO 2.2: Students will be able to **connect** the EXP to other learning.

Goal 3: Increase the **transformational** power of the EXP by using critical thinking that connects the EXP to life skills and new challenges.

SLO 3.1: Students will be able to **grow** career competencies* through the EXP.

SLO 3.2: Students will be able to **solve problems** related to the EXP.

*Career competencies include critical thinking/problem-solving; oral/written communication; digital technology; teamwork/collaboration; global intercultural fluency; leadership; initiative; and career management.