



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of the University of Texas at Tyler Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), *“Real-World Problem Solving”* is to strengthen students’ problem-solving competencies through the process and application of discipline-specific knowledge in real-world contexts. Our QEP will capitalize on existing resources and strengths to develop students’ real-world problem-solving skills and prepare them for success beyond our institution. To achieve this vision, UT Tyler has articulated four interventions:

- Enhance existing real-world problem-solving signature assignments in QEP-designated courses within undergraduate disciplines across the institution.
- Enhance existing co-curricular experiences that contribute to real-world problem-solving skills.
- Develop pedagogical frameworks and faculty development opportunities to implement real-world problem-solving teaching strategies and practices.
- Engage in ongoing assessment of student learning to inform continuous improvement planning throughout the QEP.

## Student Learning Outcomes

- **SLO 1:** Students will be able to construct a clearly defined problem statement with evidence of relevant real-world contextual factors.
- **SLO 2:** Students will be able to identify multiple approaches to address the problem within a specific real-world context.
- **SLO 3:** Students will be able to evaluate potential/proposed solutions based upon discipline-specific and real-world contextual factors.
- **SLO 4:** Students will be able to propose one or more solutions/hypotheses based upon discipline-appropriate support and/or evidence.
- **SLO 5:** Students will be able to implement the identified solution(s) to address the problem.
- **SLO 6:** Students will be able to evaluate results/outcomes relative to the identified problem, with a discussion of further work within a real-world context.

## Assessment

UT Tyler will conduct direct and indirect assessment of the student learning outcomes. Student artifacts will be collected from QEP-designated courses and assessed by faculty scoring panels using a rubric adapted from the AAC&U Problem Solving VALUE rubric. Indirect assessment measures will include the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), co-curricular activity prompted student reflections, and the UT Tyler Undergraduate Graduation Exit Survey.

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