

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Angelo State University's (ASU's) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), *When Your Career Goals Become REALity: Ready. Explore. Apply. Launch.*, focuses institutional resources on helping students make informed decisions about academic and career pathways and demonstrate career readiness. This plan is an extension of the ASU Mission, the ASU Strategic Plan, and ongoing institutional planning processes, and it operationalizes ASU's commitment to career preparation of students.

ASU's QEP focuses on student learning and success outcomes related to career preparation and career readiness. Baseline data indicate students need awareness of existing resources, connection of course outcomes to career readiness, increased engagement with faculty about career plans, and additional support for post-graduate preparation. The plan specifically integrates career readiness initiatives in courses and academic programs with engagement from faculty and advisors. Its planning and implementation incorporates reducing participation gaps and fostering career readiness for all students.

The plan identifies two primary goals, which embody both student learning and student success:

- **Goal 1 Ready to Explore:** Students will make informed selections about their academic and career pathways.
- **Goal 2 Apply and Launch:** Students will show evidence of career readiness.

Goal 1 engages new students in career preparation during their earliest experiences at the institution. The existing General Studies (GS) 1181 Signature Courses will be enhanced with information on academic and career pathways and career development resources. Faculty and advisors will facilitate student reflection and decision-making on academic and career goals to help students choose more informed pathways toward specific majors and careers.

Goal 2 engages students after they have declared specific majors, from their sophomore year through graduation. Each academic program will identify courses in its majors that are connected to career readiness and will enhance and designate them as REAL courses. Faculty and staff advisors will promote REAL courses to students and families as a point of connection between what a student is learning in the major field of study and how it applies to potential careers. REAL courses will help students learn, apply, and demonstrate career readiness skills through high-impact practices, including internships, service-learning, and capstone portfolios and projects.

The QEP was developed with broad-based support from institutional constituents, including a QEP Development Committee, administration of a campus-wide survey on focus topics, and ongoing integration and alignment with institutional stakeholder goals, interests, and resources. The viability of the plan to meet institutional needs is supported by academic programs, learning and information resources, student support services, and other institutional departments and groups.

The ASU QEP will be assessed with both direct and indirect measures, including activities that are embedded in GS 1181 and REAL courses, institutional and course-based surveys, and qualitative focus groups. A QEP Implementation Committee will facilitate implementation and ongoing monitoring of the plan. Each year of implementation will build on the achievements of the previous year, culminating in sustainable career readiness initiatives that will continue beyond the life of the QEP.

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