

QEP Title: Go Intercultural! Communicate. Collaborate. Celebrate
Institution: East Carolina University
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Executive Summary

The Quality Enhancement plan for East Carolina University, “Go Intercultural! Communicate. Collaborate. Celebrate” seeks to increase the intercultural competence of our students by teaching them the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to work and be agents of social change in the diverse cultural world of the 21st century. The QEP advances ECU’s mission to become a national model for student success, public service, and regional transformation through the establishment of curricula designed to develop the intercultural competence of students. The topic was selected based on ECU’s mission and strategic plan, as well as recent ECU trends, successes, challenges, and institutional assessment data.

The goal of “Go Intercultural!” is to develop the intercultural competence of students. This will be done by developing in them the cognitive, affective, and behavioral skills and characteristics that support effective and appropriate interaction in a variety of cultural contexts. To achieve this goal, we have designed a measurable program by which students can become intercultural competent individual through: 1) self/cultural awareness, or the ability to articulate their own cultural rules, values, perspectives and biases, 2) knowledge, or the capability to analyze and explain global and domestic issues using an intercultural competence framework, 3) attitudes, or the openness to initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others, and 4) skills, or the capability to communicate in a culturally informed manner in intercultural and/or multicultural contexts.

To achieve the anticipated student learning outcomes, we have established four programmatic goals targeting the curriculum. These goals are: 1) provide students with an introduction to intercultural competence through first year and honors seminars where they will design a personalized intercultural self-development plan, 2) reinforce their development in newly intercultural competence designated courses in all levels of the curriculum, 3) master intercultural competence in IC designated high impact practices such as redesigned study abroad programs, intercultural competence focused undergraduate research, and community engagement, and 4) recognize progress and mastering of competence via non-curricular badges.

Significant human and financial resources are dedicated to support the student success, professional development, and assessment of the “Go Intercultural!” QEP. Several new professional development opportunities, including the Intercultural Summer Institute and the Intercultural Fellows Program, will be developed to support faculty and staff in redesigning programs and curricula.

Assessment of student learning outcomes within the “Go Intercultural!” project relies on nationally recognized instruments such as the Intercultural Development Inventory and the AAC&U Intercultural Value Rubric.

The “Go Intercultural!” project was developed over the course of a year and represents the work of all university constituencies, faculty, staff, students, and administrators. Through a competitive process of selection, surveys, town halls, and many formal and informal presentations at Deans Council, Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Student Government Association Senate, College Councils meetings, and committee meetings, we have created an inclusive QEP that advances ECU’s mission and will prepare our students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to be successful after they graduate.