

LEVELUP

UNIQUELY PREPARED

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA QEP EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of South Alabama's (USA) *LevelUP: Uniquely Prepared for What Comes Next* Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is a campus-wide initiative aimed at uniquely preparing students for their next steps. Through metacognitive reflections, students will synthesize connections among learning opportunities inside and outside of the classroom as they look ahead and plan for their future. *LevelUP* provides enhanced opportunities for students to develop career readiness competencies that prepare them for life after their degree, as confident, ready, and capable members of the workforce or well-equipped graduate students.

The focus of *LevelUP* is closely aligned with USA's mission of *striving to make a difference in the lives of those it serves through promoting discovery, health, and learning* and advances USA's strategic priority to improve student access and success. Conceptualized through a transparent, thorough, logical, and consensus-driven approach, the *LevelUP* QEP is derived from USA's ongoing university planning and evaluation processes and has broad buy-in and support.

LevelUP is focused on three specific and measurable student learning outcomes (SLO):

- Ready: Through a portfolio-based values affirmation activity, students will explain the importance of their self-identified values (SLO 1).
- Set: At the midpoint of their program, students will evaluate their level of competence to engage in three readiness behaviors using an ePortfolio (SLO 2).
- Go: As they near completion of their academic program, students will articulate how their program and experiences relate to their readiness for their next steps in an ePortfolio (SLO 3).

With professional development, coaching, and resources, faculty and staff will utilize components of a *LevelUP* readiness toolkit and evidence-based strategies to support students in connecting learning and development experiences to readiness behaviors. To enact meaningful, sustained achievement in better preparing students for what comes next, academic programs and student support services will identify and assess at least one intended outcome aimed at improving student career readiness. USA is committed to providing the human and financial resources needed for all stages of planning, implementing, and completing the *LevelUP* QEP, including dedicated personnel, *LevelUP* Fellows, *LevelUP* Program Accelerators, training, and technology.

Each of the student learning outcomes, as well as the faculty and staff outcome and the program-level outcome, are assessed and analyzed each year. An annual continuous improvement cycle is employed to ensure that institutional stakeholders are involved in ongoing planning and evaluation to adjust dedicated resources as needed throughout the implementation and completion of the plan. Through *LevelUP*, students will graduate from USA uniquely and confidently prepared for what comes next.

CONTACT: Julie M. Estis, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Executive Director, Academic Enhancement
jestis@southalabama.edu 251.461.1590
www.southalabama.edu/levelup