



QEP Title: Preparing the Pride: Experiential and Work-based Learning

Institution: University of North Alabama (UNA)

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Executive Summary:

The University of North Alabama Quality Enhancement Plan, *Preparing the Pride: Experiential and Work-Based Learning*, aims to increase opportunities and student engagement in undergraduate curricular-based experiential and work-based learning across four domains: Work-based learning, mentored research and creative activities, service learning, and immersive learning. The overarching goal of *Preparing the Pride* is to create a culture in which undergraduates embrace experiential and work-based learning and, upon graduation, are more prepared for the world of work or to continue their post-graduate education.

UNA has established a single Student Learning Outcome (SLO) for this QEP: ***Students will use integrative thinking and reflection to demonstrate the ability to make connections across multiple contexts and educational experiences.*** This SLO has five major student learning indicators:

1. The ability to connect experiential and work-based learning to academic learning (connections to experience).
2. The ability to make connections across disciplines and perspectives (connections to discipline).
3. The ability to adapt and apply information to new situations (transfer).
4. The ability to use effective and appropriate forms of communication to enhance the quality of their assignments (integrated communication).
5. The ability to demonstrate a developing sense of self as a learner, building on prior experiences to respond to new and challenging contexts (self-assessment and reflection).

UNA has also identified two supplemental institutional goals to work toward in support of the SLO:

1. Increase the number of experiential and work-based learning opportunities for students in undergraduate degree programs in each of the academic colleges and for the University as a whole.
2. Increase the number of students participating in experiential and work-based learning opportunities in undergraduate degree programs in each of the academic colleges and for the University as a whole.

Preparing the Pride will leverage existing resources on campus and offer new strategies and activities for faculty, staff, and students to facilitate the incorporation of additional experiential and work-based learning opportunities, as well as additional resources for faculty and student support.