

EXACT

EXperiential Learning **And** **Critical Thinking**

Georgia Gwinnett College Quality Enhancement Plan

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EXACT (**EX**periential learning **And** **Critical Thinking**) is Georgia Gwinnett College's (GGC) institution-wide Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to assure campuswide access to experiential learning, while incorporating foundational critical thinking competencies and practices across the curriculum. **EXACT** consolidates GGC's existing experiential learning resources and practices, expands upon that campuswide inventory by fostering a faculty culture of curricular practice, strengthens practices through focused faculty training that integrates ePortfolio and critical thinking pedagogies into GGC's expanding experiential learning profile, and operationalizes strategies for ensuring access to all students. The assessment model for **EXACT** uses reliable, precise tools for gathering data to show **EXACT**'s effectiveness and to indicate ways that the project can continue to expand and improve student success.

Aligned with GGC's mission to provide access to impactful learning that prepares students for successful post-baccalaureate careers and futures, **EXACT** defines two organizational objectives and two learning outcomes to ground its vision, guide its implementation, and structure the assessment of its effectiveness and success.

Project Objectives (PO): As a campuswide initiative, **EXACT**

- PO1: Expands access to experiential learning throughout the curriculum.
- PO2: Develops faculty capability to teach critical thinking.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO): Through **EXACT**, students will

- SLO1: Integrate knowledge across different learning experiences by using procedural and conceptual skills.
- SLO2: Develop critical thinking in one or more skillset areas of interpreting and evaluating information, solving problems, communicating effectively, and analyzing alternative assumptions and conditions of experiential learning experiences.

Students will achieve learning outcomes through four approaches. The first is the intentional integration of critical thinking skillsets within active learning and experiential classroom and curriculum frameworks, when, scaled out, provide all students with opportunities to experience this integrated learning approach multiple times, from general education to upper-division classes in their majors. The second is the incorporation of sustained ePortfolio-centered reflection as a foundational component of all experiential learning opportunities. The third is an elective **EXACT Scholars** certificate in experiential learning, which will require substantially more work and sustained reflection. The final and most important is the creation of the **EXACT** office, which will consolidate experiential learning resources for student access, provide faculty and staff professional development, and operationalize and expand curriculum opportunities.

GGC's budget is sufficient to provide widespread access at scale across the curriculum and significant professional development for faculty and staff, support the certification program, house and staff the **EXACT** office, and execute a comprehensive communications campaign. GGC has created a management infrastructure adequate to support the QEP, and GGC has developed a comprehensive assessment plan to assess progress toward achieving the QEP's learning outcomes and program objectives. Assessment data will identify areas of improvement for the QEP, and adjustments will be made as necessary to improve student learning and the effectiveness of **EXACT**'s services and programming.