

QEP Title: Stand Out, Move Forward: Preparing for Professional Success

Institution: Virginia Western Community College

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Executive Summary

Virginia Western Community College (VWCC) selected professional readiness as its focus for the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): Stand Out, Move Forward: Preparing for Professional Success by utilizing extensive input from a wide group of constituents and a thorough review of existing literature. Through this QEP, VWCC aims to prepare all associate degree-seeking students to demonstrate appropriate professional readiness skills, specifically in the areas of accountability and communication, in the classroom and employment setting as a result of their experiences at VWCC.

This goal will be assessed across three student learning outcomes (SLOs):

SLO 1: Students will demonstrate accountability for their own actions with respect for their own and other's time and roles.

SLO 2: Students will employ verbal communication that is culturally and situationally appropriate.

SLO 3: Students will compose professional written communications that are well-organized, accurate, and adjusted to meet the specific audience.

The QEP aims to ensure that all associate degree-seeking students receive quality instruction regarding accountability, verbal communication, and written professional communication that prepares them for academic and professional success.

The QEP will include:

- Incorporating three Canvas modules containing content and assessments related to the three SLO's into first-year student development courses.
- Having a Career Services Professional embedded into specific, high-traffic courses identified through a curriculum mapping process and utilizing a professional readiness rubric for assessment.
- Providing faculty professional development on best practices for teaching professionalism and offering students networking and professional development opportunities by working with our campus Career Center.

VWCC is committed to supporting the QEP and will assess its effectiveness by analyzing the data from the rubrics, assessments, and quizzes in the embedded Canvas modules, and annual student, graduate, and employer satisfaction surveys. VWCC's QEP Implementation Team and Office of Institutional Effectiveness will monitor results and make any necessary adjustments to implementation.

The QEP directly supports the economic success pillar of the college's Strategic Plan as it will help students develop crucial skills needed for employment that will help support our regional employers. Additionally, through the development of professional readiness skills, the QEP aligns with the college's mission "to provide quality educational opportunities that empower students for success and strengthen communities," and its vision to be "a forward-thinking Community College inspiring individual, community and economic transformation" (Virginia Western Community College, 2018).

Reference

Virginia Western Community College. (2018, September). Mission, vision, values, & goals. <https://www.viriniawestern.edu/about/leadership/mission-vision-values-goals/>