QEP Executive Summary: Language Matters

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences will foster writing proficiency to support the institution’s communication learning outcome. Writing will be utilized as a key tool for mastering discipline-specific content at identified points in the curriculum. As such, in the first phase of the plan, faculty members who are teaching courses identified as “writing intensive” will receive training in the creation, delivery and assessment of writing assignments. Activities will include:

a. Mapping writing through the curriculum and identifying writing-intensive courses
b. Assembling a writing-intensive faculty council for relevant training and shared objectives
c. Placing assignments throughout the curriculum that emphasize writing as a process.

During the second phase, the impact of these efforts will be assessed. Activities will include:

a. Constructing electronic portfolios to gather student writing assignments
b. Assessing the quality of student writing in the portfolios as appropriate
c. Planning a capstone symposium to highlight exceptional student writing.

Finally, data review highlighted a need for extracurricular support for students with writing deficiencies. Therefore, a writing center named Pen Station will be developed to offer tutoring and workshops to students who are referred by faculty or who have low ACT and/or placement test scores. Pen Station will train exemplary students in each program to help their peers improve writing skills.

As a result of these activities, all graduates will achieve the following writing outcomes:

- Understand writing as a learning process
- Apply the conventions of professional writing correctly to written work
- Analyze written arguments for clarity
- Evaluate sources for relevance and reliability
- Create professional writing that effectively communicates to an identified audience.