

## **Armstrong Atlantic State University**

### **Executive Summary**

“We value education that is student-focused, transformative, experiential, rigorous, leading to student success.”

So reads the first of several core values accompanying Armstrong’s mission statement. The most recent and broadest reaching commitment to this value is First Class, Armstrong’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). It was developed in response to qualitative and quantitative data showing that the first year experience needed improvements to foster better student outcomes.

First Class is designed to address incoming students’ common needs to engage with the Armstrong community as well as develop skills that are foundational to their academic success. The program includes all new first-year students and transfer students who have earned less than 30 semester hours of credit. First Class has two components: (1) a seminar, focused on literacy skill development, student engagement and building a learning community, and (2) a linked core course, in which to apply skills and knowledge gained from the seminar.

The student learning outcomes for First Class are: (1) to learn how to engage with others in the university community to secure needed academic resources for their success, and (2) to build literacy skills foundational to their success in college and (3) to successfully complete their first year at Armstrong.

Measures to assess the student learning outcome # 1 include:

- Frequencies of student visits to Academic Resource offices; interactions with Professors outside of the classroom, participation in co-curricular activities.
- An institutionally designed First-Year Student Survey that addresses the spectrum of first-year student experiences and additional questions assessing students’ abilities to navigate university services

Measures to assess the student learning outcome #2 include:

- The Research Practices Survey that assesses student skills in research and information literacy
- A literacy rubric adapted from the Association of American Colleges and Universities’ VALUE rubrics

Measures to assess student learning outcome #3 include, but are not limited to:

- Percentage of students completing the seminar and core course with a grade of C or above
- Percentage of students who continue their enrollment throughout their first year
- Percentage of students who finish their first year with a grade of C or better

**Contact Person: Ann Heiny, First Class (QEP) Director**

**Armstrong Atlantic State University, Savannah, GA 31419**

**Ann.Heiny@Armstrong.edu**