

Austin College Quality Enhancement Plan 2009-2014
The GLOBE Program:
International Cultural Awareness For All Students

Executive summary

The Austin College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) develops the GLOBE program, which will bring our global learning programs to a new level of quality. We will support those opportunities with tangible resources that will:

- Enhance on-campus and study abroad educational opportunities with increased emphasis on cultural awareness;
- Establish the infrastructure necessary to support students and faculty through the Center for Global Learning; and
- Encourage 100% participation by Austin College students in an off-campus international experience.

In order to achieve student learning outcomes of increased attitudes, knowledge and skills of cultural awareness, Austin College has created both administrative and assessment oversight. The GLOBE Executive Committee, chaired by the vice president for academic affairs, ensures administrative oversight and accountability through appropriate stakeholders in academic and student affairs. The QEP Assessment Committee, chaired by the associate vice president for institutional effectiveness, includes both faculty and student affairs leaders.

International education has long been a priority of Austin College. Our long-standing strengths in modern languages, study abroad, and international study during January term have been enhanced by the establishment of the Jordan Family Language House and by the development of area studies programs. Our strengths in internships and career studies in international settings have been supplemented by the recent establishment of the Global Outreach Fellowship program, which will support approximately 250 Austin College students over the next two decades.

Global learning and the development of cultural awareness are also integral parts of our educational mission and Strategic Plan (2005-2010). The work of the “Internationalization” committee during 2006-2007 set the stage for the choice of “global learning” as the focus of the Austin College QEP. Austin College’s educational mission fosters cultural awareness, including a deeper understanding of “social, ethical, and global issues” and our students’ place in “a rich complex of evolving cultural traditions.” Through the QEP, students will have international and intercultural experiences that will lead them to “understand and respect difference” and to “cross traditional boundaries.”

Contact: Dr. Karen H. Nelson, Assoc. Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness knelson@austincollege.edu