

QEP Title: Fostering Personal and Social Responsibility through Experiential Learning

Institution: Barry University; Miami Shores, FL

Contact: Christopher Starratt, PhD  
Interim Provost  
Vice President for Mission and Institutional Effectiveness  
[cstarratt@barry.edu](mailto:cstarratt@barry.edu)

#### Executive Summary:

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) at Barry University focuses on undergraduate students and centers on the broad areas of personal and social responsibility. These are two areas identified by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Liberal Education – America’s Promise (LEAP) initiative as essential components of a liberal arts education. A large majority of employers, over 80% by some estimates, identify competence in these areas as important for job success.

Three learning domains which fall under the construct of personal and social responsibility will be addressed through QEP programming. These are: 1) ethical and moral reasoning; 2) engaging diverse perspectives; and 3) community engagement and collaboration. These domains relate directly to the Core Commitments of the Barry University Mission. Six specific learning outcomes have been derived from these three broad areas.

Over the course of four years, incoming first year full time undergraduates will take 27 course credits (15 credits in the first two years and 12 in the remaining two years) that embed one of the three learning domains into the content of an existing required course. A minimum of 9 course credits must be taken that have an experiential learning component. In addition, each student will participate in two co-curricular activities per semester that have been designed to address one of the three learning domains for a total of 16 activities/events.

Assessment of student learning outcome will be conducted at three levels. Course level assessments will be conducted by the course instructor using course embedded assessment. At the institutional level, the QEP Implementation Committee will evaluate two work products from every QEP course offered each semester. Finally, two standardized instruments measuring the constructs of personal responsibility/ethics and social responsibility will be administered at the beginning of the first year and end of the fourth year for each student.