



Overview

Coastal Carolina University has chosen *Experienced@Coastal* as its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The fundamental purpose of *Experienced@Coastal* is to strengthen the abilities of students to link theory with practice by expanding and enhancing Experiential Learning (EL) across the University's educational programs.

Through the implementation of the QEP, students will have a heightened sense of value, relevance, and advantage of their collegiate studies to life beyond the University. The QEP will mobilize all constituencies invested in student learning to develop and implement the curricular changes needed to move EL to the forefront of education at the University.

For the purpose of the QEP, EL is defined as the process whereby learning occurs through reflection on doing, and knowledge is discovered as a result of guided, purposeful experience(s). Examples of activities associated with EL already represented in the University's courses and programs include internships, undergraduate research and scholarship, service learning, international experiences, and various designed projects. The QEP will convert many of these examples to designated EL courses by unifying them under common educational goals and will realize a dramatic expansion in the type and number of EL activities incorporated into every academic college.

Goals and QEP Success

Goal 1. Students will participate in experiential learning activities that complement and build upon the knowledge and skills relevant to their academic program and/or career goals.

Goal 2. Students will critically reflect on the relationship between and among experiential learning, their academic experience and the world in which they live.

The success of the QEP will be assured by the broad-based participation of faculty, students, staff and administration throughout the planning, design and implementation phases. The QEP has substantial support and dedicated resources from the University administration and Board of Trustees and is expected to affect student learning in vital and measurable ways. The QEP will place EL at the forefront of the distinctiveness of the University.

Experienced@Coastal will increase the abilities of students to link theory with practice and make Coastal Carolina University known as a place where students, faculty and staff bring education to life.

Additional questions can be directed to Dr. Robert Sheehan, Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at sheehan@coastal.edu or (843) 349-2089.