

Preparing Good Men and Great Leaders for a Culturally Diverse World
Hampden-Sydney College Quality Enhancement Plan Summary

Hampden-Sydney College has been dedicated to the liberal education of young men for over 233 years. Our historic mission “to form the good man and good citizen in an atmosphere of sound learning” remains our central focus.

Hampden-Sydney College draws a relatively homogenous groups of students mostly from Virginia (66.7%) and the Southeast (another 21.2%). Only about 10% of our students come from minority groups or from foreign countries. Student responses to the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), in focus groups, and anecdotal reports from faculty and staff members, show that our students have had little experience with those different from themselves and often have little interest in venturing out into the wider world. All constituencies of the College agree that our young men need to be exposed to the broader world if they are to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors to become the good men and great leaders of the 21st century.

To broaden our students’ experience, the QEP establishes mechanisms for them to gain additional knowledge and understanding of cultures and individuals foreign to most of them, to meet and work with individuals whose backgrounds are different from their own and to improve their ability to communicate effectively with these. The College has initiated a number of programs to accomplish these goals. We will establish one or two language houses enriched by native speakers and with responsibility to sponsor outreach programs for the community. We will enhance our international student program by formalizing support for the International House and will encourage more students to spend time in other countries. We will recruit visiting scholars from abroad or from minority U.S. communities to provide role models, to teach, and to reach out to our community.

Changing attitudes about “others” is difficult to accomplish and a challenge to assess. We will rely on several quantitative measures. We will expect an increase in the number of students participating in these QEP programs over the next five years. We expect to see more students spending time in other countries or in minority communities within the United States. We expect NSSE survey findings will show an improvement in seven items that address diversity. Finally, we hope to see signs of a more accepting and culturally aware student body in our focus groups.

Hampden-Sydney College’s Quality Enhancement Plan has been developed with involvement from all constituencies and has been approved by the administration and Board of Trustees. Dr. Earl W. Fleck (efleck@hsc.edu), the Provost and Dean of the Faculty, is the contact person for the QEP.