



Quality Enhancement Plan

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

Liberty University's QEP "Illuminate: Cultivating a Community of Research and Scholarship" aims to improve residential undergraduate student learning outcomes related to the design and development of research and inquiry. Building on its mission to develop "Christ-centered men and women with the values, knowledge and skills essential to impact the world" Liberty's QEP goal is to further develop the institutional commitment to student competencies in scholarship, research and professional communication.

The institutional process employed to identify a QEP topic revealed the need for greater attention to the development and support of a residential undergraduate research program. Through the QEP, Liberty aspires to foster increasing levels of students' engagement in research by establishing learning outcomes that provide systematic progression in research training. To begin, first-year students will complete a course designed to increase their appreciation for the value of research and scholarship and its role in the life of a university student. Second-year students will complete a course designed to equip them with the knowledge and skills required for engaging in research and scholarship. Finally, third- and fourth-year students will complete courses that will provide them with the opportunity to design research proposals/projects in their field of study. In addition to these learning outcomes, the QEP rewards students who demonstrate both desire and excellence with opportunities to share their research and scholarship in venues both internal and external to the University.

Liberty University has formed the Center for Research & Scholarship (CRS) and charged it with oversight of the QEP. Initially, CRS will give attention to the development of the infrastructure needed to implement, maintain, and sustain the QEP and its learning outcomes. Throughout the University, CRS will coordinate the involvement of academic and co-curricular units necessary for the success of the QEP.

At the culmination of the QEP, Liberty University anticipates that its residential undergraduate students will have improved the quality and quantity of research they produce. Liberty expects to demonstrate this increased research ability in its students through a robust, focused assessment plan utilizing pre- and post-evaluations and a rubric designed to measure student achievement of the QEP learning outcomes. A high-level annual evaluation process has been established to steer the adjustments needed to increase the QEP's effectiveness University-wide.

In conclusion, Liberty University believes that enhancing student learning in the area of research and scholarship furthers the University's mission and its ability to achieve it. Through the establishment of CRS, the development of goals and actions based on best practices, a commitment of resources sufficient to attain the student learning outcomes, and a comprehensive assessment plan, the QEP aspires to successfully develop in residential undergraduate students the research values, knowledge, and skills needed to impact the world.

Contact us:

For additional information, please contact Ms. Elisa Rollins, Assistant Vice Provost for Quality Enhancement of Undergraduate Education, through the Center for Research & Scholarship at Liberty University, at crs@liberty.edu, or visit our website <http://www.liberty.edu/crs>.