

The LSUA Experience

The QEP for LSU at Alexandria

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for Louisiana State University at Alexandria (LSUA) is focused on an academic success experience for first-year students: *The LSUA Experience*. Analyses of quantitative and qualitative data, from a wide range of constituents, clearly supported the need for LSUA to intentionally plan and implement a campus-wide initiative focused on enhancing the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for first-year students to be academically successful. Data also highlighted the importance of enhancing current efforts to “engage and connect” first-year students to the LSUA community.

In March 2013 a QEP kick-off campaign was held in conjunction with a welcome luncheon for the University’s newly appointed Interim Chancellor. This venue capitalized on a planned gathering for the LSUA community and generated a great deal of excitement regarding the QEP. It also served as a segue for future events designed to engage the entire LSUA community in the development of the QEP. Academic success became the main theme of formal and informal QEP conversations across campus and evolved as the major focal point for LSUA’s QEP topic by the beginning of the Fall 2013 semester.

The focus of the QEP is a major intervention involving two overarching goals: 1) *Prepare students for academic success*; 2) *Engage students in the LSUA Community*. A first-year seminar course, *LSUA 1001 Seminar for Academic Success*, will be supported by peer mentors and a sustained faculty development initiative. In order to be institutionally transformative, these components will be brought together along with multiple University resources under the umbrella of *The LSUA Experience*. Each of these goals will be supported by specific student learning outcomes. A variety of assessment methods, both direct and indirect, will be utilized to measure the student learning outcomes established for the QEP.

The Center for Academic Success (CAS), established in Spring 2014, will oversee the implementation, assessment, and institutionalization of all aspects of *The LSUA Experience*. LSUA has sufficient human, financial, and physical resources to implement and sustain the five year QEP. It is expected that these budget expenditures will be offset by gains in funding as students are successful and continue to degree completion.

The LSUA Experience has evolved into a campus-wide initiative that is a direct outgrowth of the mission of the University. The impetus for this movement was a SACSCOC reaffirmation visit; however the University’s commitment to student success is strongly embedded in the past and has become the vision for LSUA’s future.

For more information, contact

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