



U RESEARCH - Engage * Empower * Enhance Mississippi College Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

Mississippi College (MC) is a private, co-educational Christian university of liberal arts and sciences and professional studies, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and located in Clinton, MS. MC's mission of preparing students for meaningful careers, life-long learning, and service to God and others guided the selection and development of its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

The QEP topic discovery process, begun in 2008, and the subsequent implementation plan were both accomplished with broad-based involvement of faculty, staff, students, trustees, administrators, and alumni. As a result of the campus involvement in the topic selection process, in February 2010 MC selected "U Research: Engage, Empower, Enhance" as its QEP. U Research is designed to cultivate information literacy competencies among MC undergraduate students, whose academic work will demonstrate that they are discriminating users of information. The aspiration of U Research is to *engage* students in learning activities that can *enhance* their research and critical thinking skills, *empowering* them to become productive citizens in the workplace and society.

U Research will be implemented in the curriculum through embedded activities in congruence with five learning objectives and ten student learning outcomes. Phase one was launched in Fall 2012 and will integrate U Research into all sections of ENG 102, a course included in the general education curriculum and required of all students. In the second phase (years two through four), at least six departments each successive year will integrate U Research into their designated threshold and senior courses. By the end of the fourth year, all departments will have integrated the QEP into their respective programmatic curricula.

Ongoing assessments will be aligned to U Research objectives and student learning outcomes. The assessment measures will consist of course-embedded assessments and nationally-normed instruments (such as the Research Readiness Self Assessment, the Student Satisfaction Inventory, and the College Senior Survey), and are expected to identify weaknesses and strengths in achieving learning objectives. The findings will be used to enhance student learning, improve curricular design, and impact faculty development.

The university has the necessary funds and the commitment of its various constituencies to establish U Research as a comprehensive information literacy program. What is learned from U Research will likely influence the structure and pedagogy of the entire curriculum, as a significant value added to the MC student educational experience.

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