



The Write Stuff

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

The focus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's (NOBTS) Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is "to improve English writing at the graduate level." The QEP Committee was charged with the responsibility of developing an enhancement program that would be appropriate to the seminary's goals and resources. Membership of this committee included representatives from administration, faculty, staff, and students. The process of selecting a topic and developing the QEP involved discussions with the entire campus community including both campus and extension center students, faculty, alumni, and trustees. These discussions revealed a concern about student writing skills. This topic was limited further to English writing at the graduate level since this group represents the majority of the students at NOBTS.

The NOBTS QEP is a five-year plan that seeks to equip faculty and train students to accomplish five primary learning outcomes: (1) students compose well developed and logical assignments, (2) students compose grammatically correct sentences, (3) students use an effective writing style, (4) students incorporate appropriate supporting material, and (5) students follow prescribed style guides.

The student learning outcomes will be accomplished by implementing four strategies to improve writing at the graduate level: (1) train teaching assistants to identify key issues in writing, (2) train adjunct teachers to identify key issues in writing, (3) train and encourage trustee-elected faculty to give substantial feedback on writing, and (4) create a writing center aimed to help students improve writing.

The implementation plan for the QEP is presented in three phases scaling the full plan in over time. The assessment plan will be evaluated each semester during the five-year period by the QEP Implementation Committee. A detailed chart describing the strategies, assessment, and evaluation plan is included. In addition, a presentation of the management plan and budget are included showing the institutional support and capability for implementing the QEP.

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