



QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE

CONNECT: FACULTY-STUDENT INTERACTION

Queens University of Charlotte's Quality Enhancement Plan will promote faculty-student interaction in order to enhance inquiry skills. Inquiry is broadly defined as curiosity that results in creative work or research requiring critical and creative thinking.

Our purpose will be accomplished with two initiatives: (1) the development of Exploration Seminars for freshmen and sophomores and (2) the implementation of Inquiry Grants in order to strengthen students' inquiry interests and abilities at the junior and senior level within the majors. Each of these programs will focus on enhancing faculty-student interaction in order to enhance students' inquiry skills.

Exploration Seminars introduce the process of inquiry through problem-based experiential learning, which is characterized by the following:

- Students are presented with complex, realistic problems, carefully crafted to address course goals and objectives
- Students work in small groups, intensively mentored by a faculty member
- Students learn problem-solving techniques, investigative techniques, disciplinary content, and begin to think like experts in the field of study

EXAMPLES "There's an App for That": Exploring the Digital Landscape
 Philosophy of the Body: Perception, Concepts, and Social Values

Inquiry Grants advance inquiry skills through research or creative projects, which are characterized by the following:

- The project requires students to intensively observe and interact with faculty who have relevant expertise in a field of study
- The project originates from a problem or question that is of current interest, unresolved or actively contested
- The project challenges students to use methods of inquiry central to one or more disciplines
- The project requires students to learn actively by doing field work, conducting experiments and interviews, constructing objects or creating original work, etc.

EXAMPLES: The Impact of Development on Urban Streams: Revitalizing Little Sugar Creek
 Does Voting Matter? Conventions, Platforms and Policy Choices

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will demonstrate: (1) the knowledge/ability to investigate and generate viable solutions to a current problem or contested question; (2) improved knowledge/ability to make connections among ideas and experiences.

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