



Quality Enhancement Plan Saint Joseph Seminary College

Executive Summary

Saint Joseph Seminary College engaged all of its constituencies in identifying the focus of the Seminary College's QEP, *O Sophia! Improving Writing Skills in Philosophy*. Through the assessment of institutional data, including surveys of faculty and students, a development committee proposed two possible topics for the QEP. In 2011 a campus-wide vote of both students and faculty selected "improving writing" as the general QEP topic. Further refinement discussions then led to the goal of improving writing skills in the philosophy major, the only major offered by the Seminary College.

After examination of the articulated needs of the faculty and student body and review of current literature of the best practices in academic writing, three objectives were established: (I.) Promote student engagement in process writing for production of papers in philosophy, (II.) Enable students to appropriately express philosophical ideas in writing by means of thesis, argumentation, and logic, and (III.) Enable students to evaluate the credibility of philosophical sources and accurately document these sources.

The instructional design of the QEP is a collaborative model, across the curriculum between the English, library, and philosophy faculty in a team approach, enabling each faculty member to teach within his/her area of expertise. Instruction in writing and research skills will take place primarily in a central, "gateway" course to the philosophy program and the QEP. The skills acquired in the gateway course will be reinforced by three other QEP contact courses in philosophy, one in each subsequent semester after the gateway course, whereby students will receive instruction and guidance to continuously improve their writing skills as their academic careers progress.

For information on the development and implementation of the QEP, please contact the Rev. Charles Benoit, O.S.B., Academic Dean (acdean@sjasc.edu) or Casey Edler, QEP Director (registrar@sjasc.edu).