

“As You Go, Write: Communicating the Word to the World”

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

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Executive Summary

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Southwestern), in response to accreditation Core Requirement 2.12 and Comprehensive Standard 3.3.2, has developed as part of an institution-wide, ongoing planning and evaluation process a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to improve student learning in the area of written communication, with a focus on Research-Based Writing (RBW). In light of programs already in place at both the undergraduate and doctoral levels to improve the written communication/RBW skills of students at those levels, the institution has chosen to narrow its focus to improving the RBW skills of master’s level students, the largest block of students at Southwestern.

Southwestern sought broad-based participation in the selection of the RBW topic as the seminary’s QEP. The institution’s major academic constituencies participated in the selection process: students, faculty, administration, degree-program assessors, alumni, and trustees. The number of topics suggested was narrowed down to ten and then four. The topic finally chosen was RBW under the title, “As You Go, Write: Communicating the Word to the World.” This parallels the Seminary’s centennial theme, “As You Go, Preach.”

The QEP topic chosen is an outgrowth of the institution’s newly adopted strategic plan whose mission statement reads: “Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary assists the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by the biblical education of God-called men and women for their respective ministries, which fulfill the Great Commission and glorify God.” The second of twelve action steps involved in implementing the strategic plan specifically commits the institution to implementing the QEP: “Implement Southwestern’s Quality Enhancement Plan, ‘As You Go, Write,’ to improve RBW skills of all master’s level students.”