

Tougaloo College
Quality Enhancement Plan
Executive Summary

*Advancing Student Learning Through the Enhancement
Of Critical Thinking and Analytical Reasoning*

Tougaloo College's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) focuses on "Advancing Student Learning through the Enhancement of Critical Thinking and Analytical Reasoning". The theme was selected after extensive engagement of the college community in focus group sessions and surveys and final approval by the President. From this campus wide collaboration, a mission statement and goals were developed. The focus of the QEP topic reflects Tougaloo College's aim to prepare our students to acquire critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills and apply them in all aspects of their educational experiences, their personal lives, and chosen professions.

The College intends for all students to actively demonstrate proficiency in critical thinking and analytical reasoning relative to ethical and moral values, social issues and responsibility and their chosen field of study. These skills should be evidenced by their ability to challenge, question and reassess the tenants of conventional thinking; to understand complex social issues and provide leadership in formulating solutions; and to critically read, research and appropriately document findings related to their academic majors.

The goals of the QEP are to: 1) establish programs and projects that infuse critical thinking and analytical reasoning practices in all courses to facilitate the acquisition and enhancement of the higher order thinking skills in all students; 2) recruit and graduate more students who demonstrate critical thinking and analytical reasoning to optimize student success and create a more ethical thoughtful and responsible citizenry; and 3) institutionalize the Faculty Development/QEP Center to support faculty in developing a skills-based approach that targets specific abilities students must master at the conclusion of their courses to enhance their critical thinking and analytical reasoning.

The goals are measured through indirect assessment measures such as: Graduating Senior Surveys (GSS); Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAPP); Comprehensive Academic Resources Program (EWPE); Divisions Comprehensive Examinations; Benchmark Examinations; Senior Thesis; Critical Thinking Assessment Test (CAT); Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA); and the College's Institutional Effectiveness Model. More direct assessment is focused on student papers and projects completed in the courses that draw directly from the skills-based approach designed by the faculty.

The QEP is being implemented through the Faculty Development/QEP Center under the direction of Professor Margeree Davis and the auspices of the Office of Academic Affairs.