

Guidelines to a Successful Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

From the Resource Manual for the
Principles of Accreditation:
Foundations for Quality
Enhancement and Handbook for
Institutions Seeking Reaffirmation

Gordon State College
Office of Institutional Effectiveness



What is a QEP?

- The Compliance Certification looks at what we have been doing.
- The QEP is a statement of what we will be doing over the next 5 years.

To Begin, Gordon must:

- Seek to improve some aspect of student learning or student learning environment
- Engage the college community in topic selection
- Set clear and measurable goals
- Align goals with institutional objectives, planning and priorities (strategies)
- Identify the QEP committee and chair
- Market the QEP
- Prepare documents for the on-site reaffirmation visit

Planning and Developing the QEP

- Sufficient time is needed for investigation and discussion to be submitted in May 2016
- Must be feasible and measurable
- Must be supported with funds
- Topic Selection is based on:
 - Core Requirement 2.12
 - Core Requirement 2.5
 - Comprehensive Standard 3.3.2

Specific SACSCOC Requirements:

- Core Requirement 2.12

The institution has developed an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that includes an institutional process for identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment and focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution.

Specific SACSCOC Requirements:

- Core Requirement 2.5
 - The institution engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide research-based planning and evaluation processes that (1) incorporate a systematic review of institutional mission, goals, and outcomes; (2) result in continuing improvement in institutional quality; and (3) demonstrate the institution is effectively accomplishing its mission.

Specific SACSCOC Requirements:

- Comprehensive Standard 3.3.2
 - The institution has developed a Quality Enhancement Plan that (1) demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP; (2) includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP; and (3) identifies goals and a plan to assess their achievement.

QEP

- GSC Reaffirmation Leadership Team is charged with providing oversight for the QEP
- After a topic is selected, the Leadership Team will create a QEP Committee and chair
- Sub-committees may also be created to
 - Market the QEP
 - Keep a detailed budget
 - Develop an assessment plan
 - Review progress

QEP Committee

- Select a strong leader who understands the process.
- Select a diverse team representing all areas of the college including students.
- Provide training

QEP

Must Include:

- An institutional process for identifying key issues
- Broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation

An institution's support of the QEP should be evident through:

- Consensus among key constituency groups that the QEP, rather than being merely a requirement for reaffirmation of accreditation, can result in significant, even transforming, improvements in the quality of student learning.
- Broad-based institutional participation of all appropriate campus constituencies in the identification of the topic or issue to be addressed by the QEP.
- Careful review of research and best practices related to the topic or issue.
- Allocation of adequate human and financial resources to develop, implement, and sustain the QEP.
- Implementation strategies that include a clear timeline and assignment of responsibilities.
- A structure established for evaluating the extent to which the goals set for the plan are attained.

Alignment with our Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan

Vision

Where Students Flourish

Mission

To provide an exceptional education through innovative teaching and engaged learning for the benefit of the world in which we live.

Strategic Plan

Access with Excellence; A Diverse Academic Environment; Retention, Progression, and Graduation; Community Partnerships and Engagement; Efficiency, Accountability, and Sustainability

Developing the QEP

- Create a draft and continue to gather and build support that must be:
 - Circulated
 - Debated
 - Revised
- The process should be
 - Methodical
 - Logical
 - Inclusive

9 Suggestive Steps in Preparing the QEP

- Step One: Selecting a Topic
- Step Two: Defining the Student Learning Outcomes
- Step Three: Researching the Topic
- Step Four: Identifying the Actions to be Implemented
- Step Five: Establishing the Timeline for Implementation
- Step Six: Organizing for Success
- Step Seven: Identifying Necessary Resources
- Step Eight: Assessing the Success of the QEP
- Step Nine: Preparing the QEP for Submission

<http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/081705/Handbook%20for%20Institutions%20seeking%20reaffirmation.pdf>

QEP Website

Review Data

<http://www.gordonstate.edu/ie/quality-enhancement-plan>