

# Engaging Students for Success In a Global Society

A Quality Enhancement Plan for  
Western Kentucky University

<http://www.wku.edu/qep>

<http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Support/AcadAffairs/>



## Western's QEP Theme

Western's Quality Enhancement Plan theme, *Engaging Students for Success in a Global Society*, is based on the premise that students who are more actively involved in their education will learn more, and thus be more successful during their educational careers and beyond.

The QEP theme was developed as a means of extending, focusing and realizing aspects of the university mission stated in its strategic plan, *Challenging the Spirit*.

## University Mission Statement

Western Kentucky University prepares students to be productive citizens of a global society and provides service and lifelong learning opportunities for its constituents.

## QEP Student Learning Goal

Students will engage with communities other than their own in purposeful learning activities that explicitly address their capacity and responsibility to contribute to society.

## Attendant Student Learning Outcomes

Students will demonstrate their capacity to apply knowledge and training to address relevant concerns in community or society.

Students will demonstrate respect for diversity of peoples, ideas and cultures.

Students will demonstrate awareness of their opportunities as responsible citizens living and working in a global society.

Over a period of five years, the university will implement new action initiatives directly tied to the three targeted student learning outcomes. We will hold ourselves accountable to SACS for demonstrating measurable positive change in our student learning outcomes as a result of implementing these action initiatives.

At the same time, the university will support additional activities and initiatives that assure administrative infrastructure and advance the professional development of faculty and staff in ways necessary to achieve the targeted learning outcomes.

While the university will establish expectations regarding goals to be addressed and outcomes to be targeted, specific performance indicators will be developed by individual units. Individual academic units will serve as the direct points of accountability for documenting positive impacts on student learning. This will ensure that goals and outcomes are faculty-owned, locally-relevant, and well-integrated into the curriculum.

---

---

## Initial Action Initiatives

We have identified ten initial actions designed to impact student learning at Western. These are listed in no particular order of importance. Direct implementation will be supported by activities that establish associated institutional infrastructure or human capacity.

The ten initial action initiatives are as follows:

Create an engagement-based University Honors Program that will serve as a model of engaged learning and attract academically-talented students nationwide.

Incorporate ethical aspects of the discipline and professionalism standards into major programs of study and/or general education.

Align the outcomes of service learning in the discipline with the knowledge and skills developed through the curriculum.

Ensure engagement experiences are relevant to students' degree programs and promote awareness of the relationships of the discipline to society and the broader community.

Initiate civic or social involvement, along with discussions of social responsibility and personal autonomy, in the Freshman Experience.

Develop Winter/May/Summer Term offerings to provide diverse opportunities for study abroad and other experiential learning opportunities to diverse groups of students.

Develop a co-curricular resume/passport system for students to promote and track students' participation in experiential and service learning.

Use the Alive Center, Leadership Center, Student Life, Career Services, Advising Center and Freshman Experience as points of entry for students' involvement in community service, service learning, experiential learning and leadership activities.

Establish a Class Legacy Program whereby each student cohort addresses one significant university, social or civic issue during its tenure at Western.

Institute or orient first-year activities to initiate students to university opportunities and expectations and highlight the passage of first-year students from high school to the university environment.

If we reach a point where (a) there exist a diverse range of outlets for meaningful engagement on the part of students, (b) these opportunities are seamlessly integrated and aligned with curricular objectives and with university strategic priorities, and (c) students appreciate the value of and actively seek out opportunities to become engaged with their education and the world, then we will be in a position to legitimately claim that Western Kentucky University is

## *Engaging Students for Success in a Global Society*

For more information, contact

Dr. Doug McElroy (doug.mcelroy@wku.edu)

Dr. Dawn Bolton (dawn.bolton@wku.edu)

Dr. Dennis George (dennis.george@wku.edu)

Dr. Retta Poe (retta.poe@eku.edu)

Dr. Richard Bowker (richard.bowker@wku.edu)

Dr. Karl Laves (karl.laves@wku.edu)



*Where engaged learning inspires academic excellence and social responsibility.*