

FAQs for Faculty: Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Q: What is QEP?

A: An institutional Quality Enhancement Plan focused on improving student learning.

The QEP is a required component of our decennial application for reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges (familarly known as SACS). (See <http://www.sacscoc.org/> for more information.) Without a meaningful, carefully designed QEP, our reaccreditation would be in jeopardy.

According to SACS guidelines, the QEP "describes a course of action for enhancing educational quality. Core Requirement 2.12 requires that an institution develop an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan that focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning."

The QEP should be part of the institutional culture of ongoing planning and evaluation. Our full QEP report is submitted to SACS six weeks prior to our on-site peer review team's visit (April 2-5, 2012).

Q: What role does the faculty play in the QEP?

A: Faculty are responsible for the most significant part of the QEP: enhancing the quality of the education of our students.

SACS guidelines state that the QEP should have "significant participation by the institution's academic community." Faculty and student interaction is at the heart of the educational process, which means that faculty and their students play the most significant role in our QEP.

Q: What is Texas A&M's QEP for 2012-2022?

A: "Aggies Commit to Learning for a Lifetime"

A representative QEP Committee, drawing on the Academic Master Plan's Teaching and Learning Roadmap (2008) and updated feedback from a campus-wide survey, has developed our QEP, "Aggies Commit to Learning for a Lifetime." The QEP asks students to commit to engage intentionally in high-impact educational practices that prepare them for learning throughout their lives and to reflect on the integration of knowledge across their educational experiences. The QEP asks our institution to create the campus culture that provides the opportunities and support for our students' commitment.

The QEP draft is available for comment at <http://provost.tamu.edu/initiatives/quality-enhancement-plan>. Feedback is welcome through January 27, 2012. Refinement of the QEP over the next several years will be ongoing as we evaluate our efforts.

Q: How can faculty help with the QEP?

A: By informing themselves about our QEP and by supporting students in their commitment to high-impact learning for a lifetime of success.

It is well-documented that one of the most important factors in student educational success is students' meaningful interactions with faculty members, especially one-on-one or in small groups. Faculty can encourage students' participation in QEP in a variety of ways: by being an advocate of our QEP; by building high-impact experiences into their classroom environments; by supporting students' commitments; and by participating in efforts to create a campus culture supportive of our QEP.

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