Students as Scholars:
QEP Update
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Quality Enhancement Plan

Title: Fostering a Culture of Student Scholarship
Tagline: Students as Scholars
Definition: We define student scholarship as active participation in research and creative activities that generate knowledge or create new works, and communication of the results to a variety of audiences.
Goal: The goal of the QEP is to foster a culture of student scholarship through increased participation in and celebration of scholarly activities. Students will see their education as a process of scholarly inquiry, where scholarship is valued as a core practice of the Mason student experience.

Objective 1: Enhance the awareness and visibility of scholarship at Mason.

Objective 2: Increase opportunities for scholarly inquiry.

Objective 3: Develop the infrastructure to support student scholarship.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Discovery of Scholarship

Students will: Understand how knowledge is generated and disseminated through scholarship. Discover how they can engage in the practice of scholarship.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Scholarly Inquiry

*Students will:* Articulate a scholarly question and support a position by:
- assessing the validity of key assumptions, evidence, and ethical dimensions of a scholarly project.
- choosing an appropriate discovery process for scholarly inquiry.
- using evidence and conventions appropriate to the audience and scholarly project.

Situate the concepts, practices, or results of scholarship within a broader context.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Student Scholarship

*Students will:* Create an original scholarly project. Communicate effectively about their scholarly project in a form appropriate to the intended audience.
Program Outcomes

1. Student scholarship is pervasive on campus.
2. Undergraduate degree programs offer opportunities for student scholarly inquiry, creative activities, and research.
3. Faculty support undergraduate students in scholarly inquiry, creative activities, or research.
4. Students participate in scholarship, creative activities, or research.
5. Students have opportunities to communicate the results of their research or creative activities.
6. Students who have participated in scholarly activities are prepared for their career goals and advanced study.

QEP Activities

**OBJECTIVE 1:**
Enhance the awareness and visibility of scholarship at George Mason University.

- Establish an Annual Celebration of Student Scholarship
- Introduce Scholarship Early in the Curriculum
- Create the OSCAR Fellows Program
- Recognize Excellence in Student Scholarship
- Student Awards and Transcript Designation
- Faculty Awards
OBJECTIVE 2: Increase opportunities for scholarly inquiry.

- Integrate Student Scholarship into Advanced Composition
- Encourage Inquiry-based Curriculum
  - RS Course Designator
  - Scholarship Development Grants
- Expand Opportunities for Mentored Scholarship
  - Academic Year and Summer URSP
  - Undergraduate Student Travel Fund

OBJECTIVE 3: Develop the infrastructure to support student scholarship.

- Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research (OSCAR)
  - Student Scholarship Website
  - Database of Research & Creative Opportunities
  - Student Interest Club
  - QEP Leadership Council
- Faculty and Curriculum Development (with CTE)
QEP Impact

• Stronger connections to and retention within majors
• Better readiness for and likelihood of enrollment in graduate education
• Greater gains in academic performance
• Improved critical thinking and communication skills
• Increased preparedness for future employment
• Enhanced culture of scholarship at Mason congruent with our institutional mission and the 2014 Strategic Plan

Your Leadership: Moving Forward

Review draft QEP document
• Available now at qep.gmu.edu
• Talk with your faculty, staff, and students
• Alert QEP Committee to any concerns

Be available during our SACS on-site visit
• March 29th-31st, 2011

Stay informed about QEP plans and process
• Participate in promotional activities
• Be familiar with Executive Summary
• Want more information? Visit qep.gmu.edu