



Austin Peay State University's Quality Enhancement Plan Explore, Experience, Excel (E³) Executive Summary

Austin Peay State University's Explore, Experience, Excel (E³) initiative enhances learning by increasing students' participation in learning opportunities, high-impact practices that not only transform perspective but additionally engage students in practical application of their learning in nonacademic settings. Students engage in these transformational experiences by participating in study abroad, undergraduate research, service learning, internships, and many more opportunities yet to be developed. These experiences allow students to apply what they learn at the University to real life situations.

During a fifteen-month process, a think tank and writing teams, composed of faculty, staff, and students, selected a topic and developed the E³ action plan. The think tank analyzed the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and Faculty Survey of Student Engagement (FSSE) surveys, and employer and alumni surveys. They also sought broad-based campus input via surveys targeting student learning, as well as through campus forums, to identify the QEP topic. The writing teams then wrote the action plan, establishing a meaningful connection with the university campus mission and the campus-wide BRAVO student learning outcomes for APSU branded learning opportunities, which are high impact practices.

The E³ implementation plan consists of three phases. Beyond writing the plan, the first phase includes branding and marketing learning opportunities to the campus community. An e-portfolio system that allows students to document their experiences is also acquired. Hiring E³ personnel and setting up various advisory committees occurs during the second phase, as well as piloting assessment of designated opportunities. Grant money is awarded to faculty, staff, and students who are involved in creating or expanding current high impact practices. The third and final phase is the implementation of formal assessment of learning opportunities across campus. Throughout all three phases, the E³ Taskforce, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Office of Learning Opportunities are working in partnership to carry out the initiative.

Students are required to submit artifacts associated with their learning opportunities. Faculty and staff evaluate these artifacts using a designated rubric. The E³ staff and advisory committees are leading the University community in analyzing the assessment data, reporting the findings, and developing an improvement plan based on the assessment results.

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