

Florida State University
Quality Enhancement Plan
Executive Summary

Title: *Think FSU: Improving Critical Thinking in the Disciplines*
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The overarching goal of Florida State University's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is to improve the ability of upper-division students (juniors and seniors) to think critically in their disciplines. To ensure that we share a common language and a common set of goals as we undertake this improvement, the QEP identifies five skills as characteristic of a critical thinker. These five skills also define the student learning outcomes to be assessed in this QEP. As a result of this course of action, juniors and seniors will be better able to

- Explain an issue/problem clearly and comprehensively
- Select and use evidence/information effectively in conducting a comprehensive analysis of an issue/problem
- Analyze contexts, assumptions, and perspectives when presenting a position on an issue/problem
- Formulate a thesis/hypothesis that takes into account the complexity of an issue/problem and the variety of perspectives on this issue
- Draw logical conclusions and implications from the analysis of an issue/problem

To make certain that this improvement in student learning is deliberate, transformative, and cross-disciplinary, FSU intends to implement the following: (1) the **Faculty Fellows Program**, an initiative designed to improve the critical thinking skills of upper-division students by enhancing faculty teaching and assessment in core upper-division courses in the discipline; (2) **Discipline Focused Projects**, a grant-awarding initiative designed to improve the critical thinking skills of upper-division students by encouraging programs to implement their own, discipline-specific, critical thinking best practices in their upper division curricula.

Assessment of the QEP will be accomplished utilizing the Critical Thinking Initiative Test (CAT) developed and tested by Tennessee Technological University. The two programs noted above will be tested utilizing a pre and post-test model.

The Office of Critical Thinking Initiatives will administer the QEP. The Director will work closely with an Advisory Board, faculty, students and administrators to ensure that the goals outlined *Think FSU: Improving Critical Thinking in the Disciplines* are met and that the experience is transparent to the university community.