

READ. LEAD. SUCCEED. QEP Executive Summary

Itawamba Community College chose the topic of reading comprehension and created a thoughtful plan of action to improve student outcomes in this area through a 22-month, comprehensive development process that began in October 2015 and continued through July 2017. The goal is to reach 2,300 students or 41 percent of fall enrollment over five years. Research-based strategies in reading comprehension will be explicitly taught in four general education courses and students will be assessed through a pretest and posttest to identify proficiency gains and a midterm, rubric-graded assignment. Instructors will receive professional development and engage in inter-disciplinary sharing of best practices. Students and faculty will be engaged outside the four QEP courses through reading related service-learning projects that support the promotion of the QEP.

The QEP needs assessment results, institutional data, strategic planning, and campus voting clearly and collectively supported a strong case for focusing efforts on improving reading comprehension. 1) Employers ranked Reading for Information as a strong need in two district surveys. 2) Nationally-normed institutional data pointed to weaknesses in the general education competency of reading. 3) ACT scores showed that 63 percent of two consecutive fall-term student cohorts scored below *College Ready in Reading* based on ACT Reading scores and ACT benchmarks for *College Readiness*. 4) Campus voting results revealed that full-time faculty were strongly in favor of reading comprehension at 77.3 percent, and both employees and students ranked the same student learning outcome (SLO), which aligned with reading comprehension, as the highest need out of the eight suggested SLOs that were provided.

Read. Lead. Succeed. Giving Students Tools for Success.

The QEP has **three** student learning outcomes and **five** operational goals. The outcomes and goals will be accomplished through an **eight-point** instructional strategy and assessed through **six** instruments and **twelve** assessment activities. The primary student learning outcomes of the QEP:

1. **Students will comprehend and apply concepts presented in college/career course-related readings.**
2. **Students will use specific reading strategies to improve vocabulary skills.**
3. **Students will use specific reading strategies to improve understanding and comprehension of content area texts.**

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Giving students tools for success