



Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary **Write Now: Equipping Christian Leaders to Speak to Tomorrow**

As part of Regent's mission to provide excellent education and develop Christian leaders to change the world, Regent's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) centers on improving student writing. Regent's QEP committee consulted with faculty members across the University to help determine the best way to enhance student learning. Improving writing skills was the initial choice, and follow-up faculty surveys confirmed the early feedback: students need further support in foundational writing skills, which include grammar, mechanics, formatting, and thesis formation.

To gain a comprehensive perspective of the University's writing climate, the QEP Committee took an inventory of current student writing and faculty development resources, and commissioned the University Writing Lab (UWL) to assess student papers in foundational writing skills (i.e., thesis development, formatting, grammar, and mechanics). These papers were selected from a representative sample of first-year courses across disciplines and levels. Combined, the resources inventory and writing assessments indicated that the University's writing infrastructure needed to be strengthened through (a) the development of normed rubrics, (b) increased collaboration between the UWL and the University's colleges and schools, (c) faculty development, and (d) the refinement of resources available to students.

In alignment with andragogy described in the literature review completed during the QEP and current UWL best practices, Regent's QEP prioritizes writing instruction for students and faculty development. To measure student learning, the QEP Committee crafted the following five student learning outcomes that focus on foundational writing skills.

By the end of their first year in the program, students will be able to:

1. Articulate a clear thesis or organizing principle;
2. Demonstrate critical thinking skills through a logical presentation of adequate supporting information;
3. Use formatting that follows a correct style and successfully avoid plagiarism;
4. Use an effective voice and style that is appropriate for the audience, topic, and purpose;
5. Demonstrate mechanics mostly free of errors in the conventions of the English language.

In order to facilitate student achievement, the University has developed an eight-week faculty development course that focuses on the following:

- Utilizing technology to evaluate student writing;
- The importance of providing a critical analysis and feedback on student papers;
- Ways to refer students to support units (such as the Writing Lab);
- Effective ways to norm and implement rubrics within a course.

As faculty improve in these areas, the University is expecting student writing to also improve. Regent provides direct student support by providing students with institution-wide access to Grammarly. Effectiveness of these improvement strategies will be assessed through student papers in the upcoming years utilizing the same rubric. These action items will be carried out under the supervision of the QEP Implementation Committee and the Office of Academic Affairs.

For more information about the development or implementation of the plan, please contact: Dr. Ryan Murnane, Director of Assessment and Compliance.

Email: ryanmur@regent.edu