



QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN (QEP)



What is it?

- Describes a course of action for enhancing educational quality
- Focuses on Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and environment(s) supporting student attainment and demonstration of those outcomes
- Is a requirement for SACS COC reaffirmation of accreditation

Development Process

- Broad-based involvement in identifying key issues related to improvement of student learning at Tech
- 7 Team Leaders & 7 dialogue groups focused on important changes we can make to improve student learning outcomes
- 100 + involved faculty, staff, and external stakeholders
- Multiple meetings and electronic discussions
- Focused priorities

PRIORITY #1 FROM DIALOGUE GROUPS



First Year Experience/University Seminar

Student Development Initiative

Focus on Communication Skills

21st Century skills and processes to be included:

- Critical Thinking
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Collaboration

Incorporated Priority #1 elements into the 2015 Tech Quality Enhancement Plan Design

QEP ISSUES SOLVED

Bottleneck in Speech Classes : 110 and 377. Freshmen unlikely to get enrolled in first-year. Most enroll as Seniors.

Communication skills support and enhance success throughout college careers.

Concerns with University Seminar: inconsistency of content and experiences, not credit bearing

Feedback from alumni, business/industry /employers of need to focus on communication skills development

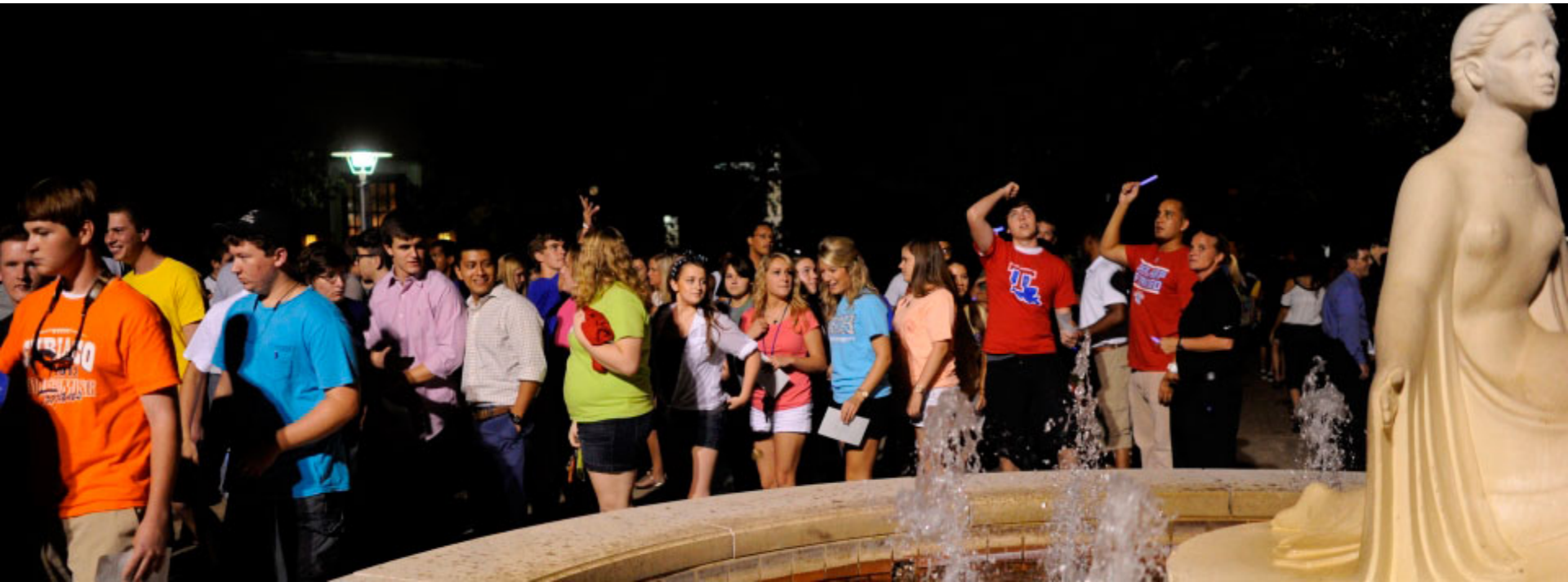
Focus of higher education accrediting and other agencies on expected student learning outcomes

Opportunity to design, develop, implement interdisciplinary, integrated curriculum in student development and communication for first-year students

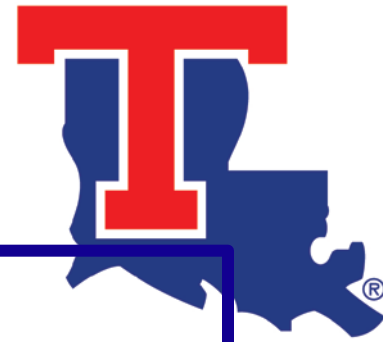
PURPOSE OF THE QEP



- To enhance student engagement in communication and personal development through a first-year, interdisciplinary experience.



QEP GOALS



Goal 1: Students will improve interpersonal skills leading to enhanced personal decision making .

Goal 2: Students will increase their appreciation for various forms of cultural diversity through teambuilding activities.

Goal 3: Students will improve their critical thinking as related to media literacy and associated ethical considerations.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES



- **SLO 1a:** Demonstrate the reduction of communication apprehension.
- **SLO 1b:** Use appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
- **SLO 1c:** Display effective listening skills.
- **SLO 2a:** Demonstrate effective collaboration skills while engaging in teambuilding activities.
- **SLO 2b:** Interpret and recognize social, organizational and multicultural diversity.
- **SLO 3a:** Critically evaluate media influences.
- **SLO 3b:** Analyze ethical elements projected in communication media.

TECH QEP BRAND



QEP COMPONENTS: BLUE FIRE- IGNITING COMMUNICATION EXPERIENCES



1. **Courses for First-year Students. Both required.**
 - a. **FYE 100: The Experience:(3-1-1)** Utilizes interdisciplinary experiences to focus on 21st century skills. Provides application experiences in communication, critical thinking and collaboration while students engage in university culture.
 - b. **COMM 101: The Communication Experience: (0-3-3) GER credit.** Focuses on personal, interpersonal, group, organizational and intercultural communication, presentation skills, enhanced decision-making concerning social media while students engage in team-based experiences.
 - c. **Features:** Interdisciplinary, team taught, innovative strategies, technology-rich learning environments

QEP BLUE FIRE COMPONENTS

- 2. BARC COMMons:** Extends and enhances BARC services. Includes Presentation Skills Center
- 3. Professional Development :** Topics include teaching/learning strategies, assessment rubrics, instructional technologies, mentoring, team teaching, etc.
- 4. Renovated Facilities:** Providing technology-rich teaching/learning environments.

ALIGNMENT WITH TECH 2020 VISION:



- Louisiana Tech University will be recognized as a top public research university with an unparalleled integrated educational experience.



IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE



- Adapted Pilot: Winter 2014-15
- Beta Test: Summer 2015: Bridge Students
- Fall 2015: Special groups (first generation, etc.)
- Summer 2016 through Spring 2019-full implementation
- Formative Evaluation: Winter 2014, Summer & Fall 2015, Summer 2016-SP 2019
- Spring 2019: Summative evaluation of QEP