

State of the QEP • 2008-09

Initial Plans

The original goal of Liberty University's QEP was to "improve graduate student writing." The initial plan was to attain this goal by a variety of means:

- Founding of the Graduate Writing Center (GWC)
- Implementation of curricular changes, including GRST 500 (developmental writing class for graduate students) and writing-intensive courses in each residential graduate program
- Development of workshops and training tools for faculty and students
- Creation of academic support for writing and scholarship on campus.

Progress Made

All of the above means of improving graduate student writing have been fully implemented.

- The GWC opened in January 2007 for residential students. Usage rates are above the national average for writing centers. In addition, the OWC, the online arm of the GWC opened in October 2008. The University Writing Program is now servicing LU's entire graduate student population, and the Undergraduate Writing Center is servicing residential undergraduates.
- GRST 500 is offered both residentially and online for students whose scores on the Liberty University Writing Assessment fall below the passing rate. Students successfully completing the course show significant gains in their basic writing skills.
- Each graduate program has designated a course in which students receive training in the writing process. Papers from this course are assessed as part of a University-wide writing evaluation each spring, and changes based on this assessment are implemented.
- Writing-related workshops are offered regularly through the CUE for faculty and are available by request for graduate students. In addition, the GWC is available to develop in-class presentations, PowerPoint presentations, or any other teaching aids upon request.
- The QEP has sponsored lectures, and the GAC sponsors an annual poster session to showcase graduate student research. In addition, the Digital Commons continues to expand, and LU's e-journal offerings multiply each year.

What Your QEP Executive Committee Is Doing Now

- Preparing to write the Fifth-Year Report for SACS
- Developing presentations about QEP development for SACS Annual Meetings (2007, 2008) and Banta (The Assessment Institute) (2008)
- Serving as on-site evaluators for SACS
- Updating the QEP website.