

Writing for the Real World: Strengthening Writing and Career Knowledge

What is a QEP?

A Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is developed and submitted as part of a college's reaffirmation for the accreditation process. It is a collegewide, five-year action and implementation plan that is designed to enhance student learning. "QEPs are carefully constructed, research-based plans that respond to specific student needs and involve faculty and staff in planning and implementation." A QEP identifies an area of student learning and develops strategies to strengthen performance in that area. The QEP will be a focal point during the on-site review by SACSCOC, the accreditation agency.

What is MDC's QEP?

"Do the Write Thing" is the title of our QEP at Miami Dade College. The overall goal of our QEP is to enhance workforce readiness through the skill of writing. The plan will focus on improving student writing skills, particularly in areas that will ultimately increase students' preparation and competitiveness as they enter a workforce that expects effective writing skills. In addition, the selected QEP topic complements and expands the reach of the strategies currently in place under MDC's Student Achievement Initiatives (SAI).

How Did We Get the QEP Topic?

In September 2012, MDC began the process of selecting a QEP topic and appointed a QEP Topic Selection Leadership Team. Ideas for the topic originated from the research and feedback provided by the student body and the entire College community. The topic selection process included comprehensive college surveys, focus groups, town hall meetings and discussions on all MDC campuses followed by a six-month process of data analysis. At the end of this process, "Writing for the Real World: Strengthening Writing and Career Knowledge" was selected by the Academic and Student Deans and College's Executive Committee as the QEP topic.

In September 2013, the QEP Planning Committee was appointed to begin developing the plan. The team designed learning outcomes and strategies to work toward achieving the goal of enhancing stu-

dents' workforce readiness through the skill of writing. The committee has met and will continue to meet with various stakeholders for feedback.

The primary QEP student learning outcomes at MDC are:

- Students will compose academic-, discipline- and career-specific writing.
- Students will demonstrate career knowledge through written responses to co-curricular activities.
- Students will evaluate their writing performance and workforce readiness.

What's to Come?

The next step is to finalize the specific actions to be implemented by the QEP. Subsequently QEP Director Dr. Richard Prentiss and the QEP committee chaired by Professor Ece Karayalcin will complete the full draft to be reviewed by the College and by the SACSCOC review committee in early summer. Strategies to accomplish the implementation of MDC's QEP include:

- Design and implement a professional development program that provides training for faculty, staff and tutors on high impact practices that focus on career-specific writing growth.
- Implement changes to the curriculum in QEP-related courses.
- Build capacity of campus academic support resources.
- Expand co-curricular opportunities that enhance students' writing skills and career knowledge.

Watch for additional information and opportunities to participate in the MDC QEP!

If you have a question, need information or would like to provide feedback or comments, please contact QEP Director Dr. Richard Prentiss at 305-237-7367 or send an email to rprentis@mdc.edu. Visit mdc.edu/qep to learn more online.