

Core Standard 2.12

The institution has developed an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that (1) includes a broad-based institutional process identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment, (2) focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution, (3) demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP, (4) includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP, and (5) identifies goals and a plan to assess their achievement. **(Quality Enhancement Plan)**

Judgment of Compliance: Compliance

Dillard University developed a Quality Enhancement Plan on *Communication Skills Enhancement Grounded in Critical Thinking*. The plan was created through broad-based involvement of the entire university community through brain storming sessions, surveys, focus groups and from a review of institutional data. The constituent groups consisted of students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and the Board of Trustees. The goal of the QEP is to ensure the success of all students by enhancing communication skills grounded in critical thinking. The objectives for designing and implementing the QEP consist of the following:

1. As a result of acquiring enhanced critical thinking skills, students through engagement, will be able to offer solutions to real-world problems by: a) reading analytically; b) writing critically and; c) speaking and presenting effectively.
2. Enhance student engagement in co-curricular and multidisciplinary learning experiences through the application of critical thinking skills.

The program design offers enhanced educational support services, demonstrates institutional capacity and commitment and annually assesses student achievement levels. The QEP will be implemented during the next 5 years through implementation strategies supported by broad-based involvement of all constituent groups. The faculty and staff discussed and both groups approved the QEP at the Faculty-Staff Institute on August 27th, 2009 in a secret ballot. The Dillard University Board of Trustees vetted, discussed and unanimously approved the QEP on August 28th, 2009.

In conclusion, we believe that Dillard is in compliance with SACS Core Requirement 2.12.

Supporting Documentation

Source	Location (url/office)
Quality Enhancement Plan	Office of Academic Affairs
QEP Appendices A – G	Office of Academic Affairs
QEP Summer Focus Committee Agenda:8-28-2009	Office of Academic Affairs
Dillard QEP Presentation	Office of Academic Affairs
Faculty-Staff Approval Vote on 8-27-2009	Office of Academic Affairs
Executive committee of Board of Trustees Approval Vote on 8-28-2009	Office of Academic Affairs