

QEP Update: Fall 2022

Selecting VCU's next QEP: QEP Topic Selection Process

Progress report provided by the
QEP Planning & Development Committee



QEP Website

The QEP website is our clearinghouse for all things QEP, including the call for proposals and evaluation rubric!

provost.vcu.edu/qep

What you need to know

- What is a QEP?
- Role of faculty in QEP selection and development
- Role of the Planning and Development Committee
- QEP theme: “Level up!”: Connecting all students to transformative, mentored experiences
- QEP timeline: topic selection and development
- QEP proposal review process
 - 3 rounds of proposal evaluation plus public comment period



Questions?
Checkout the [QEP website](https://provost.vcu.edu/qep):
provost.vcu.edu/qep

What is a QEP?

A **Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)** is an integral and required part of the SACSCOC 10-year reaffirmation process. It is a future-oriented, time-bound project that allows the university to demonstrate its commitment to the continuous improvement of student learning and success.

Requirements of an acceptable QEP

- Identifies key, emerging issues for action based on institutional data and assessment
- Aligns with and supports the institution's strategic plan
- Focuses on student learning outcomes and the environment supporting student learning
- Reflects broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in its development and implementation
- Demonstrates an institution's capability to implement and complete the QEP
- Includes clear and measurable goals and a detailed plan to assess their achievement

What is a QEP (in practice)?

There is no cookie-cutter template for what a QEP is. In practice, QEPs look different based off the needs and circumstances of the institution developing them.

A QEP *must*:

- Connect to the institution's strategic plan and priorities
- Be data informed and inquiry driven
- Be realistic and assessable

A QEP *can*:

- Target specific student populations
- Focus on experiences outside of the classroom
- Leverage existing and ongoing initiatives
- Connect to a prior QEP

A QEP *should*:

- Enhance student learning
- Focus on a bounded question
- Reflect broad-based input through a phased development



Above all, QEPs must have **students at the center**



Faculty-driven QEPs recognize

- Faculty governance and faculty's purview over the curriculum
- Faculty as content experts
- Faculty as inheritors of the QEP topic and implementation decisions
- Faculty input as essential for identifying the right actions and resources to take a QEP from a vision to an actionable plan



QEP Planning & Development Committee Charge

- **Guide the topic selection and development process**
 - Establishing criteria and procedures for topic proposal submissions
 - Developing an evaluation rubric for assessing topic proposals
 - Identifying the evaluation process for QEP topic proposals
- **Ensure engagement of the VCU community**
 - Crafting the call for Topic Proposals
 - Hosting workshops and info sessions, creating collaboration tools, and serving as ambassadors for the QEP

Convened March 18, 2022, the QEP P & D Committee met bi-monthly through early May and tasked 4 summer work groups with milestones critical to a Fall 2022 topic selection process.

QEP Planning & Development Work Groups

Research and Development Work Group

Co-chairs: **Nia Rodgers**, Public Affairs Research Librarian, Cabell Library, and **Amy Rector**, Associate Professor, Anthropology & Director, School of World Studies

Engagement Work Group

Chair: **Jeffery Wilson**, Associate Dean, Graduate School

Evaluation Work Group

Chair: Alena Hampton, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Student Success, College of Health Professions

Marketing & Communications Work Group

Co-chairs: **Vicky Shivy**, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, **Tom Myrick**, Assistant Director, Strategic Communications, Office of the Provost, and **Kaitlin Hanger**, Assistant Professor, Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture

Research and
development

Engagement

Evaluation

Marketing and
communications



Kudos to the work group leaders and their teams! For a full roster of the QEP Planning & Development Committee, go to provost.vcu.edu/qep/committee/.

Our QEP theme

Theme: Level Up!: Connecting all students to transformative, mentored experiences

- Alignment with key themes of the recalibrated Quest 2025 strategic plan
- Provides direction and context while allowing broad flexibility to potential proposal topics
- Leverages the momentum gained through the REAL initiative
- An opportunity to continue our REAL work in a focused, intentional way

QEP Timeline

April-June 2022: QEP Planning and Development Committee identifies topic selection criteria and a process for soliciting topic proposals

June-Sept. 2022: Request for proposals released and proposals drafted. Submission deadline Sept. 23

Sept.-Oct. 2022: Proposal evaluation and selection process

Nov. 2022: QEP topic announced and writing team identified

Dec. 2022: SACSCOC annual meeting/ orientation for QEP team

Jan.-Aug. 2023: QEP draft is prepared

Sept.- Dec. 2023: Pilots initiated, QEP draft circulated for review and final revision

Spring 2024: QEP submitted to SACSCOC



Topic selection:

- Must be aligned with LEVEL UP
- Must be aligned with priorities articulated in State of Academic Affairs address, which set the vision for the academic enterprise
- Must be aligned with Quest 2028

Proposal review and evaluation

We are following a multi-tiered review process:

- **Round 1, Sept 29- Oct 12: QEP Evaluation Team**
 - Comprised of volunteers, P & D Committee members and students
 - Using a standard evaluation rubric to score in a blind review
 - Will advance the top 3-5 proposals
- **Public Comment Period, Oct 14- Oct 28**
 - Advanced proposals posted on the QEP website
 - Feedback form open to all VCU faculty, staff and students
- **Round 2, Late Oct/early Nov: Academic Affairs Leadership Team**
- **Round 3, Early November: President's Cabinet**




November 2022:
QEP topic selected!

VCU's next QEP topic
selected at conclusion of all
rounds of review and input

Public Comment Period: Oct. 14 -28

- Following the first round of evaluation, the top 3-5 proposals will be posted on the QEP website for public comment and input
- Opening of the public comment portal will be announced via email and Telegram
- Public comment period will run from Oct 14- 28
- Summary of the results will inform the following rounds of evaluation



VCU
Office of the Provost

QEP topic proposals: Feedback requested

Please complete the fields below to provide comments and feedback on the topic proposals being advanced for consideration as the focus of VCU's next Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

To learn more about the process and criteria that were used to identify these proposals, as well as general information about the QEP, please consult our FAQ page: <https://provost.vcu.edu/qep/faq/>

Questions? Contact real@vcu.edu.


The deadline for feedback is October 26, 2022.

VCU QEP webpage: provost.vcu.edu/qep

QEP Topic Proposal Rubric:

[https://provost.vcu.edu/media/provost-2018/documents/qep/qeprubric\(1\).pdf](https://provost.vcu.edu/media/provost-2018/documents/qep/qeprubric(1).pdf)

What's coming: Recap

- First round proposal review: Sept 29-Oct 12
 - Reviewer orientation: Sept 29
 - Scoring: Sept 30 - Oct 10
 - Deliberations: Oct 10-12
- Public comment period: Oct 14- Oct 28
 - Top proposals posted on the QEP website with a link to a feedback form 
 - Notification to the public via email and Telegram
 - Public comment data provided to Academic Affairs Leadership Team
- Second round proposal review by Academic Affairs Leadership Team: Late October/early November
- Third Round proposal review and topic selection by President's Cabinet: Early November



Thank you for your time and partnership!

Questions?

Contact gep@vcu.edu

