

**Western Carolina University SACS Review
The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)
SACS Core Requirement 2.12**

Guiding Principles and Summary

1. “The QEP is based upon a comprehensive and thorough analysis of the effectiveness of the learning environment for supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution. It is used to outline a course of action for institutional improvement by addressing one or more issues that contribute to institutional quality, with special attention to student learning” (*Principles of Accreditation, Foundations for Quality Enhancement*, p. 8).
2. As a component on the peer review process, the QEP, “submitted to SACS six weeks in advance of the on-site review by the Commission, [is a] carefully designed course of action that addresses a well-defined issue or issues directly related to improving student learning; [it] involves significant participation by the institution’s academic community [and others] and should be no more than 75 pages of narrative and 25 pages of support documentation” (*Principles of Accreditation, Foundations for Quality Enhancement*, pp. 10, 11).
3. “The institution has developed an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan and demonstrates that the plan is part of an ongoing planning and evaluation process” (*Principles of Accreditation, Foundations for Quality Enhancement*, p. 17).
4. The holistic evaluation of the QEP by the on-site committee of the Commission on Colleges of SACS will be conducted in Spring, 2007, and will be based on:
 - A. Focus of Plan (identification of a critical issue(s) related to student learning);
 - B. Institutional capability/initiation/continuation of Plan;
 - C. Assessment of Plan’s success;
 - D. Community/stakeholders’ involvement in development and implementation of the Plan.

Western Carolina University’s internal evaluation of our QEP will be based on:

1. Overall goals of the plan/key objectives and benchmarks;
2. Planning, implementation and input;
3. Impact of QEP on student learning;
4. Qualitative and Quantitative measures;
5. Consistency of results across a variety of measures.

