



Cornerstone Experience

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Update

Learning Outcomes Refined

May 20th session facilitated by Stuart Hunter



Pat Newell, Dean, Student Services; Dr. Caroline Seefchak, Professor of English, College Prep; Pam Mangene, Professor of English; Amy Trogan, Professor of English; and Fred Morgan, Coordinator, Project HOPE, participate in the discussion on Cornerstone Experience learning outcomes.

Following months of diligent work by four QEP subcommittees, Cornerstone Experience FYE course outcomes have been established.

“I commend all involved for their commitment to assuring that this course proves to be an enriching and rewarding experience for our first-year students,” said QEP Co-Chair Professor Kathy Clark.

In October, the QEP Committee divided into subcommittees aligned with the foundational constructs of the Cornerstone Experience course, i.e. Relevancy, Critical Thinking, Applied Learning, and Success Skills. Descriptions and draft course outcomes were developed for each. Upon closer examination, the QEP Committee determined that many outcomes overlapped, and some required further discussion.

Committee members extended an invitation to colleagues to join them, along with QEP consultant

Stuart Hunter, on the morning of May 20th to evaluate and refine the draft outcomes. The group worked in teams to 1) justify, explain, extend and amplify the outcomes, suggesting changes as necessary, and to 2) identify available resources to support achievement of the learning outcomes. The resulting descriptions and outcomes appear on page 2.

The final assignment was to develop a learning activity for one outcome based on the Kolb Model: Learning Around the Circle, i.e. moving from concrete experience to reflective observation to abstract conceptualization to active experimentation.

The QEP Committee invites all faculty to join the Cornerstone Experience curriculum development process. For information contact Professor Clark at kclark@edison.edu or ext. 3758.



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From the QEP Co-Chairs

Dr. Thomas Rath, Academic Dean, Charlotte, and Kathy Clark, Professor of Economics, Collier

With relevance as one of Cornerstone’s four foundational concepts, the QEP Committee recommends that first-time students choose one of five interest-based tracks that each includes a section of Cornerstone Experience. (see below)

The Committee further recommends that the students complete their schedules by choosing from a list of courses appropriate for the first-time students, particularly if they are enrolled in college prep courses.

We welcome your input.

Cornerstone Experience Tracks
Business/ Public Service
Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)
Liberal Arts and Undecided
Education
Health Science

Cornerstone Experience Learning Outcomes May 2011

Critical Thinking assists students in developing the skills of analysis, evaluation, and justification to improve thinking and guide behavior.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

- Apply the intellectual traits, standards, and elements of reasoning in the context of their personal and academic lives
- Demonstrate intellectual rigor and problem-solving skills by analyzing and evaluating information, generating ideas, and resolving issues
- Explore how background experiences impact their values and assumptions and explain how they influence personal relationships

Relevancy promotes student engagement in learning activities that connect course content to each student's own academic and career objectives. Through purposeful connections and meaningful experiences, students will be guided toward successful completion of educational goals.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

- Construct a plan for a successful path into and through completion of a degree or certificate
- Evaluate student-to-student and student-to-faculty interactions, and reflect on their relationship to academic, career, and social development
- Reflect on the General Education requirements at Edison State College and articulate their application to academic and career goals

Applied Learning enables students to reinforce skills learned in Cornerstone Experience by applying them in other classes and settings.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

- Enhance their awareness of the larger diverse community both inside and outside Edison State College
- Apply one or more skills learned in the FYE course to other academic endeavors

Success Strategies help students achieve their personal and educational goals, acquire skills and knowledge, become more mature in their thinking, assume greater responsibility for their own lives and learning, and develop understanding of diversity and multiculturalism in preparation for the professional world.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

- Develop strategies for effective written and verbal communication, use of technology, listening, reading, critical thinking and reasoning
- Demonstrate independence and self-efficacy through effective personal management, use of college resources and the development of positive relationships with peers, staff and faculty



Amy Teprovich Leads QEP Marketing and Communications

As Chair of the new QEP Marketing and Communications Subcommittee, Director of Student Life Amy Teprovich will work to ensure broad-based awareness of Cornerstone Experience. Representatives from each campus serving on the committee are beginning to craft a district-wide marketing plan to inform and engage students, employees and the community. Videos, flyers, brochures, and banners will be developed, and campus events planned to promote awareness of the course and to inform students that enrollment will be required for select students beginning in Spring 2012. The Subcommittee will also assist in planning the Fall 2011 Convocation and a back-to-school QEP marketing blitz for students. Anyone wishing to join the group may contact Amy at ateprovich@edison.edu or at ext. 1316.