



QEP Frequently Asked Questions

1. WHAT IS THE TITLE OF SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AND A&M COLLEGE'S QEP PLAN?

The title of Southern University and A&M College (SU) QEP Plan is **JAGS — Journey to Achieve Greater Success**. The QEP title, JAGS – Journey to Achieve Greater Success, appropriately describes an active process and utilizes a reference to the university mascot, the Jaguar, to promote university pride.

2. WHAT IS A QEP?

The *Quality Enhancement Plan* is an integral component of the reaffirmation of accreditation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) and is derived from an institution's ongoing comprehensive planning and evaluation processes. It reflects and affirms a commitment to enhance overall institutional quality and effectiveness by focusing on an issue that the institution considers important to improving student learning outcomes and/or student success. The document submitted by the institution demonstrates that its *QEP* (a) has a topic identified through its ongoing, comprehensive planning and evaluation processes; (b) has broad-based support of institutional constituencies; (c) focuses on improving specific student learning outcomes and/or student success; (d) commits resources to initiate, implement and complete the QEP; and (e) includes a plan to assess achievement. The On-Site Reaffirmation Committee reviews the document and conducts interviews to determine whether the institution has demonstrated compliance with Standard 7.2.

According to SACS-COC, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is submitted six weeks in advance of the On-Site Reaffirmation Review Committee Visit.

3. HOW WAS SU QEP PLAN DEVELOPED?

In the spring of 2017, Southern University and A&M College began a broad-based process of planning for the Quality Enhancement Plan. The initial activities included review of institutional data and communication with stakeholders including faculty, students, administrative representatives, and the Board of Supervisors for input concerning potential topics. The ongoing processes revealed common themes centered on the first-year experience of our undergraduate students. During the fall semester of 2018, we became aware of a disproportionate number of students who were likely to be placed on academic probation. These students, as further analyses of institutional data suggested, were not passing select general education courses.

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The result of the analyses was also shared with and has the support of the faculty and academic departments, the Academic Council, the College Deans, the Faculty Senate and with the Chancellor's Cabinet. Soon a Southern University and A&M College Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) was identified to focus on the first-year experience of undergraduate students and more specifically to address student success in English, mathematics, and biology gateway courses.

4. HOW WILL SU IMPLEMENT ITS QEP?

Southern University's commitment to the QEP is supported by our investment in the Gardner Institute's Gateways to Completion® (G2C) program which provides a meticulous process that will be used to initiate and implement the QEP. The internal and external review and assessment of the G2C process will provide feedback to refine the QEP implementation and suggest practices for sustaining enhancements. We will also supplement our effort by examining and revising the content and process of orientation for new undergraduate students and ongoing student development engagements. SU will implement and monitor the QEP with the aid of faculty teaching gateway courses, with students serving as peer coaches, and staff facilitating student support services. The First-Year Experience initiative, by embracing the *Seven Habits of Highly Successful College Students* model, will help students develop a new mindset and encourage the development of new skill sets, so students can succeed in college and beyond. The Center for Student Success will actively solicit and provide tutoring and supplemental instruction with request from students and/or instructors teaching gateway courses.

5. WHEN DID SU SUBMIT ITS QEP TO SACS-COC?

The SU QEP was submitted to SACS-COC on Monday, January 27, 2020.

6. WHEN IS THE ON-SITE VISIT FOR THE SACS-COC REAFFIRMATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULED?

The SACS-COC Reaffirmation Committee is scheduled to visit the campus of Southern University and A&M College March 2-5, 2020.

7. HOW IS AN INSTITUTION'S QEP EVALUATED AFTER IT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY SACS-COC?

ANSWER: Each member institution submits a Fifth-Year Interim Report to demonstrate compliance with selected standards of the *Principles of Accreditation*. A review of institutional initiatives related to enhancing student learning outcomes and/or student success is an integral part of that Fifth-Year Interim Report. Institutions will have the option of providing a report on the impact of their previous Quality Enhancement Plan or documenting ongoing quality enhancement initiatives which would demonstrate compliance with Standard 7.2 (QEP).