ECPI UNIVERSITY

students F.I.R.S.T.
Find Information and Resources to Succeed Today

Quality Enhancement Plan Executive Summary

ECPI University's *Students Find Information and Resources to Succeed Today* or *Students F.I.R.S.T.* is a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to strengthen information literacy skills and facilitate each student's understanding of the body of knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to prepare for a chosen profession.

The QEP evolved out of a broad university involvement and is a reflection of the University's ongoing commitment to its mission to provide "*a student-centered learning environment that promotes the enhancement of each student's professional and personal life through education.*" This mission and focus on the student's academic and professional growth has guided the University since its founding in 1966.

Students F.I.R.S.T. will focus upon the application of information literacy (IL) skills to prepare students for their professional development. This QEP emphasizes engaged, intentional learning that leads to better career choices after graduation. Through this QEP, ECPI University students learn to obtain and use information effectively and efficiently to solve real-world problems in their fields of study as they prepare for a profession.

The *Students F.I.R.S.T.* plan addresses these topics in four student learning outcomes:

1. Students will be able to use information literacy skills effectively to access the body of knowledge appropriate to their professions.
2. Students will be able to integrate knowledge, skills, and abilities to develop a comprehensive understanding of their professions.
3. Students will be able to apply the knowledge, skills, and abilities to accomplish specific professional purposes.
4. Students will be able to document attainment of information literacy skills and understanding of the profession, using an appropriate format.

The University established career-focused initiatives and enhanced existing programs to achieve these student learning outcomes. These initiatives and enhancements include mandatory library and technology training for all faculty and staff to increase faculty and staff IL skills; emphasis upon information literacy and professionalism in University curriculum; promotion and financial support for membership in professional organizations for faculty, staff, and students; and increased support for professional certifications and licenses. In addition to the academic efforts, the University has identified co-curricular activities that support *Students F.I.R.S.T.* Finally, *Students F.I.R.S.T.* initiatives are supported by academic technologies such tablet computing, which allows for ready access to information resources, and e-portfolios as a method to collect and assess students' achievement of improved information literacy skills.

The University's QEP will provide its students with the information literacy skills needed to enhance their personal and professional opportunities.

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