



IMPACT REPORT

Quality Enhancement Plan

2016 - 2017 | 2017 - 2018



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

TEACHING & LEARNING INNOVATION

Table of Contents

02 Student Learning

03 Experiential Learning Support

04 Infusing Experiential Learning into the Curriculum

05 Faculty Training

07 Human Resources & Organizational Structure

08 Campus Experiential Learning Data

09 Smart Communities Initiative

10 Impacts & Campus Support

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) was developed to enhance the quality of its educational programming by focusing on student learning, and specifically experiential learning. Moreover, this QEP supports faculty training as part of our Vol Vision goal of being one of the top 25 public universities in the United States.



The student learning outcomes of our QEP are:

1. Students will value the importance of **engaged scholarship** and **lifelong learning**.
2. Students will develop and apply **knowledge, values, and skills** in solving real-world problems.
3. Students will work **collaboratively** with others.
4. Students will utilize structure **reflection** as part of the inquiry process.

STUDENT LEARNING

Implementing Student Learning Outcomes:

These student learning outcomes have been required to be implemented in all QEP funded courses and programs. Student participants in these courses and programs have been both pre-tested and post-tested using survey instruments developed by our QEP Assessment Coordinator. In each case, surveys have been created to help the faculty or staff leaders more effectively assess the students participating in every educational opportunity.

Surveying Faculty Members:

We have also surveyed faculty members to better understand their perspectives in their courses that received direct support from the QEP or QEP staff. We have worked with the UT's Office of Institutional Research to also incorporate specific experiential learning questions within the institution's course evaluations (formerly SAIS, now Tennessee Voice).

Student Resources:

Students can find experiential learning opportunities at UT Knoxville by visiting experiencelearning.utk.edu/find-an-opportunity

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SUPPORT

Several faculty development resources and collaboration amongst campus offices helped further the Quality Enhancement Plan's mission on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville campus.

High Impact Practices (HIP) Advisory Group



A number of offices, units, and centers across campus contributed to the overall

development of the QEP. After the

Director of the QEP was hired, this group of offices was invited and brought together in order to play an ongoing role in the continued growth of this university-wide initiative. The members of this group represent four of the seven divisions of the university and include a total of 28 members.

The Creation of Experiential Learning Resources:

In order to begin to “tell the story” of Experience Learning to the campus and beyond, the EL Team worked closely with colleagues in the university’s Office of Marketing and Communication. A brief description of the tools that were developed and debuted during the 2016-2017 academic year are listed below:

- A double-sided poster diagramming the “12 Types of Experiential Learning” with a map of “Key Campus Partners” featured
- Smart Communities Initiative video
- The Experience Learning Resource Guide
- The Experience Learning Student Map

In 2017-2018 additional resources were developed and debuted to the campus community. These resources included:

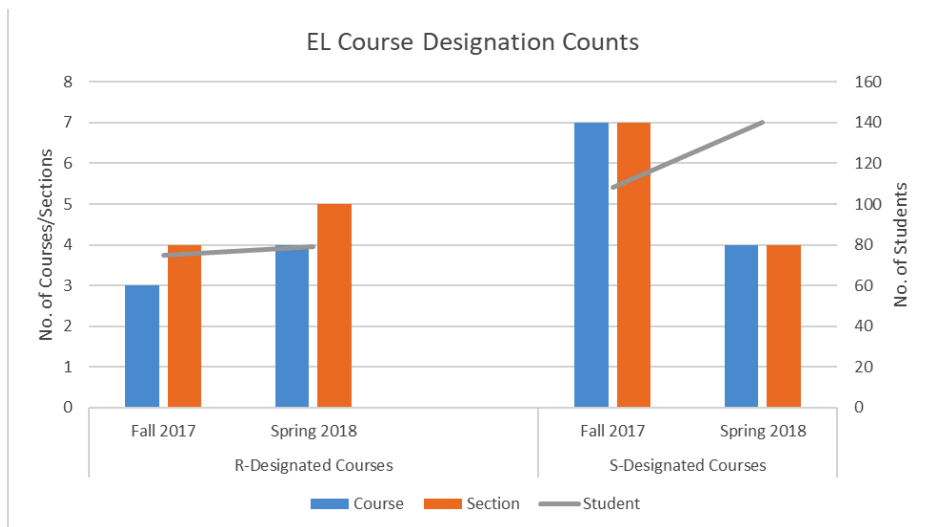
- A student safety questionnaire for all Faculty/Staff/Student grant recipients
- A “1-pager” of fast facts about risk management best practices
- The creation of a Risk Management Cycle for experiential learning at UT-Knoxville
- The development and submission of a Risk Management Handbook
- Videos highlighting service-learning, undergraduate research, internships, study abroad, and volunteerism
- Assessment Toolbox for Experiential Learning

INFUSING EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING into the curriculum ...



S, R, & N Course Designations:

The Experience Learning course designation system, which seeks to identify courses that include experiential learning components, was piloted in Fall 2016. These courses are identified in the course catalog by an S or R-designation within the course number. After an all-campus call for submissions, 18 courses were designated for the 2017-2018 academic year. Upon seeing a need for an additional designation, the internship (N) designation was submitted for review. The N designation was later approved in Fall 2017 and will debut in the 2018-2019 academic year.



During the 2017-2018 Academic Year:

- **75** students enrolled in 3 R-designated courses, comprising 4 sections, in Fall 2017
- **79** students enrolled in 4 R-designated courses, comprising 5 sections, in Spring 2018
- **108** students enrolled in 7 S-designated courses, comprising 7 sections, in Fall 2017
- **140** students enrolled in 4 S-designated courses, comprising 4 sections, in Spring 2018

Advising Model Changes to include Experience Learning:

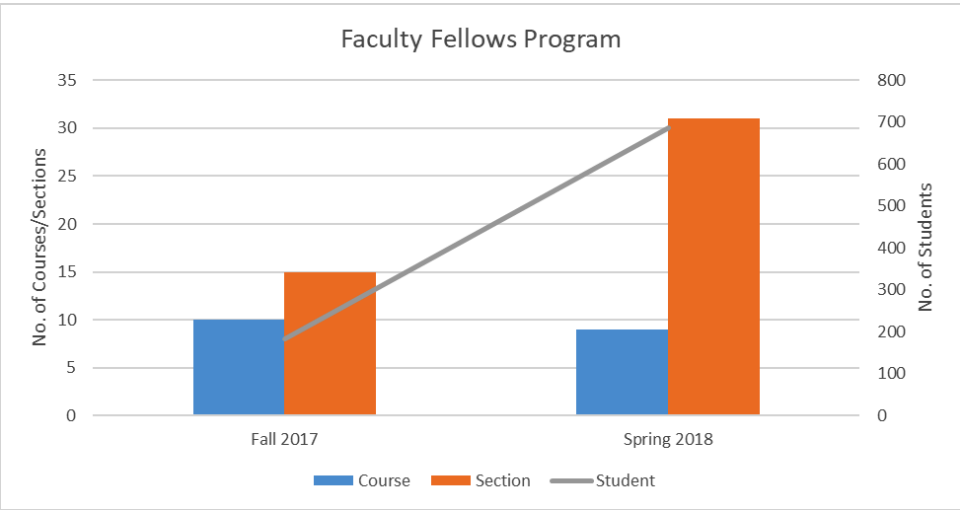
Experience Learning was chosen as one of the 4 major components of UT's new university-wide academic advising model. Beginning in 2020, all incoming students will be advised not only on the basis of their academic and career interests, but also in terms of actively participating in experiential learning and self-development. For more information, visit advising.utk.edu.

Comments made by academic advisors led us to revamp the "Student Opportunities" portion of the EL webpage to be more accessible for students and for advisors seeking to promote EL opportunities to students.

FACULTY TRAINING 2016 - 2017

Experience Learning Certificate Program:

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the former Tennessee Teaching and Learning Center led workshops on topics rooted in the QEP’s student learning outcomes. Those workshops served to provide faculty with best practices for leading effective group project experiences in the classroom, structured reflection, and collaboration amongst students.



Grant Opportunities for Faculty, Staff & Students:

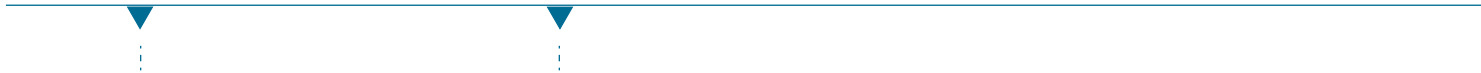
Experience Learning debuted two grant programs during the 2016 - 2017 academic year.

I. Faculty/Staff/Student Support Initiative grants

- Focused on co-curricular learning
- Received 16 applications and funded 11 projects from faculty, staff

and students. These 11 projects included **96 UTK students**.

II. Faculty Development Grants

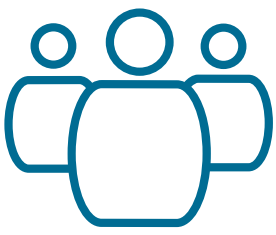


Faculty, Staff, & Student Support:

- Focused on **co-curricular learning**
- Received 16 applications and funded 11 projects from faculty, staff and students. These 11 projects included **96 students** enrolled at Ut Knoxville.

Faculty Development Grants

- Focused on **faculty redesigning their course** to incorporate a type of experiential learning during the 2017 Experience Learning Summer Institute. Received and funded 25 applications totaling 22 course redesigns:
- All Faculty Development Grant recipients were required to participate in the 4-week Experience Learning Summer Institute (ELSI) and were named Experience Learning Faculty Fellows
 - A 3-person team from the Department of English redeveloped “Chancellor’s Honors Writing II” to allow approximately **400 students** to experience a research opportunity
 - This also stimulated the incorporation of experiential learning into the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences’ Leadership Studies minor, totaling 6 courses
 - These 22 course redesigns included **869 students** enrolled at UTK. There were 687 students enrolled in Spring 2018 and 182 students enrolled in Fall 2018.



Faculty Training 2017 - 2018

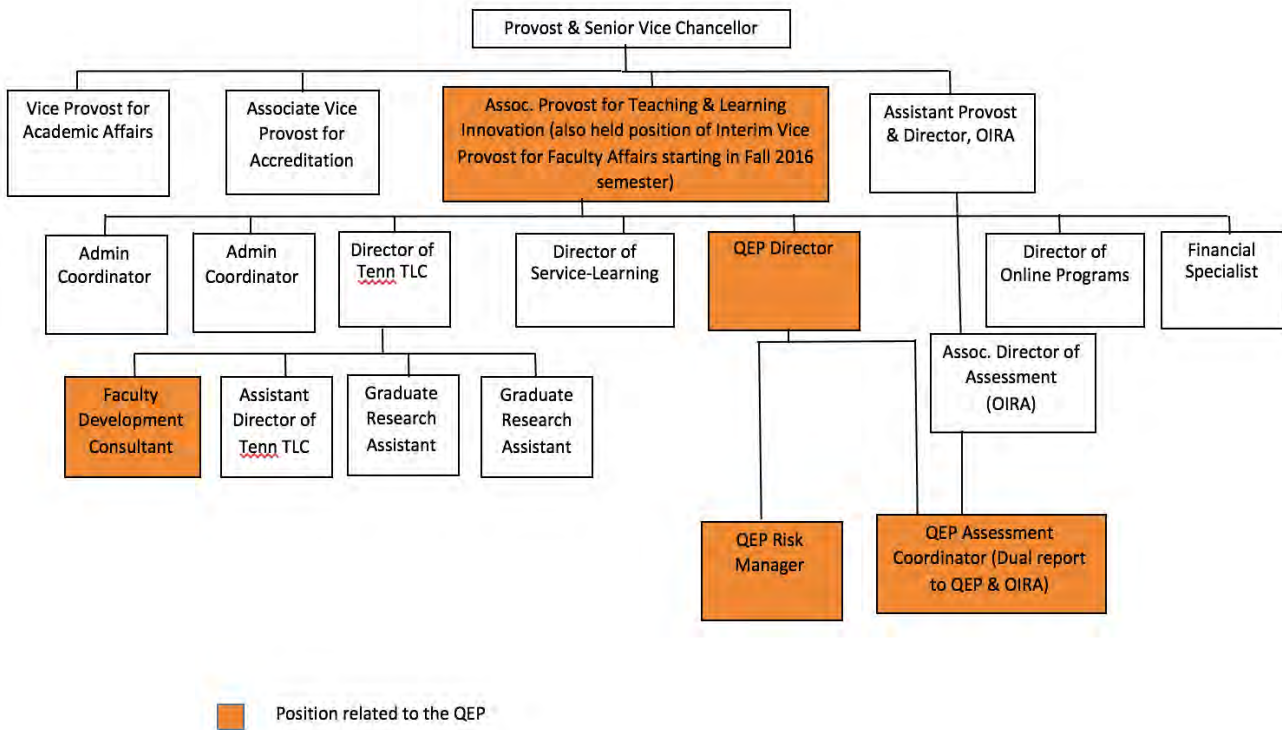


Teaching & Learning Innovation Summer Institute (TLISI):

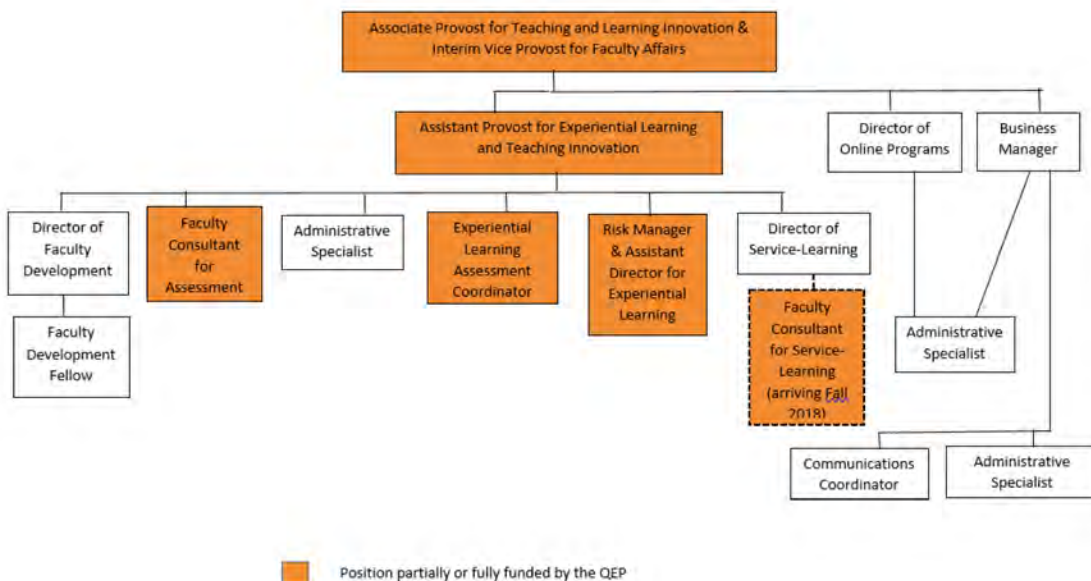
- Focused on faculty redesigning their course to incorporate a type of experiential learning or evidence-based teaching strategy
- Received 55 applications and funded 27 Faculty Fellows.
 - All chosen faculty were required to participate in the 4-week Teaching & Learning Innovation Summer Institute (TLISI) and were named TLI Faculty Fellows
 - 12 of the 27 Faculty Fellows chose the Experience Learning track

This program changed from the 2017 Experience Learning Summer Institute due to the reorganization that occurred within Teaching and Learning Innovation. Faculty/Staff/Student Support Initiative Grants were not reinstated for the 2017-2018 academic year due to the reorganization of Teaching and Learning Innovation.

The **2016-2017 organizational chart** for 2016-2017 highlights the roles related to the QEP and the separate offices and initiatives reporting to the Associate Provost for Teaching Innovation.



In the 2017 - 2018 academic year, as part of a greater reorganization to align with both the former Chancellor and Interim Provost's priorities for educational delivery methods on our campus, the Office of Online Programs, Teaching and Learning Center, Office of Service-Learning, and the Experience Learning initiative were merged to form Teaching and Learning Innovation (TLI). TLI also received recurring funding, which allows for greater flexibility and foresight in planning for the future. This restructure led to the alteration of existing positions and addition of new positions, as evidenced in the organizational chart below:

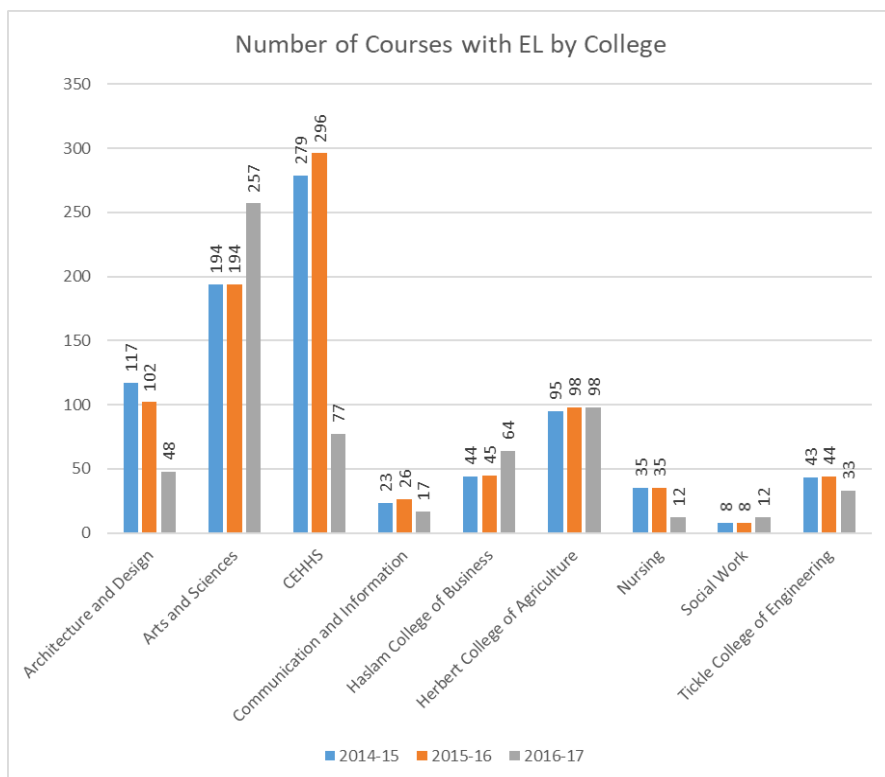


Campus Experiential Learning Data



Baseline Data

In accordance with the QEP logic model, the QEP team met with 11 administrative offices and 9 academic colleges on campus to gain more insight into what experiential learning (EL) data was collected between the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years for baseline purposes and 2016-17 onward for tracking purposes. The reason for obtaining this data was to gain more insight into how data was being collected, what data was being collected, and the history of why certain data was collected over each academic year. The data collected for this process was used to compare future collected data to measure change in the academic culture as it relates to experiential learning.



Between the baseline years (2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years) to the 2016-17 academic year, **47 data points** pertaining to experiential learning were collected from 11 administrative offices.

An increase in experiential learning participation was evident in at least **5 of the 12 types of experiential learning** as reported from the Office of Undergraduate Research, Programs Abroad, Center for Leadership & Service, and Center for Career Development.

The graph above highlights the number of courses that include experiential learning by college at UT Knoxville.

Smart Communities Initiative



The Smart Communities Initiative (SCI) extends rigorous community-based learning experiences to students, whereby, under faculty guidance, students apply research and inquiry to a variety of problems identified by communities across the state. For more information about the SCI, please visit <https://sci.utk.edu/>

In 2016-2017, the selected SCI community was Lenoir City, Tennessee:

- **5 faculty members** from four different colleges led unique courses in a coordinated effort to benefit Lenoir City
- **85 students** participated in this experience

In 2017-2018, the SCI undertook a hiatus until the 2019-2020 academic year in order to reorganize and redevelop the program to establish mutually beneficial and enduring relationships between faculty and community partners.

Impacts & Campus Support

Growth & Support on Campus. The debut of the co-curricular transcript was influenced and supported by the QEP and Experience Learning personnel. The co-curricular transcript will highlight leadership, service, international education, professional and applied experience, and undergraduate research.

Initial Impacts in the Southeastern Conference

2016-2017

The QEP Director presented at Inaugural SEC INSPIRE conference. We learned that UT is the **only SEC institution** with a full-time risk management professional focused on student safety through faculty development.

2017-2018

The Assistant Provost for Experiential Learning and Teaching Innovation (formerly the QEP Director), along with the QEP Assessment Coordinator, attended the 2nd annual SEC INSPIRE conference.

Initial Impacts in our field. UT has been invited to share some initial findings from our QEP at several national conferences. In academic year 2016 - 2017, we did not present at any national conferences.

2017 - 2018

- 2018 Association for the Assessment of Learning in Higher Education

2018 - 2019

- 2018 American Evaluation Association

- 2018 National Society for Experiential Education

- 2018 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

Need more info?

Learn more about experiential learning at UT Knoxville by visiting experiencelearning.utk.edu, and find faculty support opportunities on teaching.utk.edu.