

Quality Enhancement Plan Quick Reference Guide

FOCUS

- The purpose of **TEAM USA** is to improve student learning by increasing student critical thinking and collaborative skills through the utilization of Team-Based Learning in STEM courses.
- **TEAM USA** is aligned with the University's mission to "apply knowledge in service to the people of Alabama as citizens of a global community" and also with goal #1 of the University's strategic plan, "To build upon the academic quality and learning environment of the University."
- Student learning outcomes are specific to each STEM class and designed around course content and higher order thinking skills as defined by Bloom (1956). For example: Students will differentiate among syntax (compile-time), execution (run-time), and logical (output) errors.
- In each STEM course, there are no less than 3-5 student learning outcomes that incorporate higher-level thinking skills (Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation).
- Professors will establish assessment targets for student learning outcomes that represent appropriate levels of mastery.
- **TEAM USA** is based on a review of literature and best practices including social learning theory, social interdependence, constructivism, collaboration, critical thinking, Team-Based Learning and the impact of Team-Based Learning in STEM courses.

INVOLVEMENT

- USA engaged all appropriate campus constituencies including faculty, staff, students, community members, alumni and administrators in identification of the topic and development of the plan.
- There was an agreed upon process for topic development and selection, with a call for proposals and scoring rubric.
- Topic development and selection was vetted through a Leadership Team, Concept Development Committee, Implementation Team and Advisory Council.
- Campus forums to solicit input were conducted with the cooperation of the student government association on the main campus and Baldwin campus to move **TEAM USA** forward.
- Students, faculty, administration, community members and alumni were involved in project design.
- Several committees, with a total membership of 77, were utilized in the concept development, topic selection, project implementation and project delivery phases of the plan.
- A content consultant and Team-Based Learning expert was involved in the design and implementation of the project.

CAPACITY

- USA allocated sufficient resources and provided an on-going commitment to implement, sustain and complete **TEAM USA**.
- USA has allocated 1.4 million dollars in cash and in-kind to **TEAM USA**.
- The institution has provided a clear, precise and viable implementation plan with timelines, objectives, actions, person(s) responsible, resource allocation and an assessment schedule.
- The implementation plan is organized around logistics, faculty induction, professional development and assessment. It also includes the renovation and use of a **TEAM USA** classroom and Advisory Council activities.
- **TEAM USA** personnel include a full-time Quality Enhancement Plan Director a part-time student assistant, and support provided by an administrative assistant, the Innovation in Learning Center Director, the Faculty Development Services Director, and the IRPA Director of Assessment.
- **TEAM USA** has an organizational structure with a chain of command. The Quality Enhancement Plan Director reports directly to the Senior Vice-President for Academic Affairs
- Roles and responsibilities of **TEAM USA** personnel are detailed in the management plan.
- All aspects of the implementation plan support improvements in student learning.

ASSESSMENT

- There are means for assessing the success of **TEAM USA** including the identification of relevant internal and external measures to evaluate the plan.
- Assessments are connected to each student learning outcome and project administrative objectives.
- Assessments are integrated into USA's annual assessment program both as an administrative unit as well as an academic effort.
- There is an internal system for evaluating **TEAM USA** and monitoring its progress.
- The assessment plan describes how the results of the evaluation of **TEAM USA** will be used to improve student learning.
- Formative and summative internal and external assessments with direct and indirect measures are found in the **TEAM USA** assessment plan.



Improved Student Learning and Success in STEM Disciplines

Higher Levels of Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills

Enhanced Collaboration and Communication

Real-world Application of Content

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