

UWF Quality Enhancement Plan 2025 Executive Summary

The University of West Florida (UWF) is excited to launch its new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) initiative, Reflect to Connect. This new QEP will allow UWF to continue its important and transformative work using high-impact practices (HIPs) within educational and co-curricular learning experiences with a new focus on critical reflection.

A thorough analysis of UWF's institutional mission, strategic plan, and priorities led to the selection of the integration of critical reflection into our HIPs. Strategic Direction 1.1 states that UWF will "provide high-impact educational and co-curricular learning experiences that inspire, engage, and prepare students to become knowledgeable citizens and successful in their careers and lives."

Reflect to Connect has four major goals:

Goal 1: Enhance student learning through critical reflection in HIPs.

Goal 2: Enhance student engagement and success through HIPs that bridge classroom learning with relevant practical applications in the field.

Goal 3: Provide faculty development and training on critical reflection integration within HIPs.

Goal 4: Enhance stakeholder/community perception of the value of HIP experiences through students' critical reflection.

UWF believes that this new institutional focus on critical reflection within HIPs will help students to make meaningful connections between the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom and their future careers. To put it simply, we desire for our nursing students to think of themselves as future nurses and our engineering students to think of themselves as future engineers. UWF also believes this emphasis on critical reflection will help students to articulate what they have learned to future employers or graduate/professional schools.

Broad-based support for this QEP is evidenced through campus stakeholder participation on committees, town hall meetings, surveys, presentations, and focus groups, as well as through institutional planning and topic selection processes. The University of West Florida is committed to this initiative and has the necessary infrastructure and resources in place to ensure successful implementation.