

Volume One: Introduction to the QEP

What is a QEP?

QEP is the abbreviation for **Quality Enhancement Plan**. It is a five-year project that the College will undertake to enhance an aspect of student learning. The QEP is also an important part of reaffirmation of accreditation.

What is Mayland's QEP Topic?

Preparing Students to Learn Online: Are You Ready? is the title of Mayland's Quality Enhancement Plan. The QEP's focus / main objective is to:

Ensure Student Learning Success in Online Classes

Why is Mayland Focusing on Online Learning for its QEP?

We are focusing on 100% online classes for several reasons:

- During the past few years, the percentage of our students taking at least one Internet class per semester has trended upward. Currently, over 1/4 of Mayland's curriculum students take at least one 100% online class each semester.
- Mayland's online students are significantly less likely to be successful in their Internet classes than those taking seated or hybrid classes.
- Students are more likely to drop out of an online class during the semester than students in traditional classes or hybrid classes.
- Through focus group discussions and surveys, students indicated that they feel that the College should address both student readiness and faculty development for online classes.
- Faculty surveys also indicated that ensuring student readiness for online learning is important for each student's overall success in Internet-based classes. In focus groups, faculty members also shared ideas about professional development needs.
- The MCC Academic Master Plan discusses opportunities for distance learning course certification, promotion of best practices for faculty development, course design for quality distance learning opportunities, and college resource provision to support distance education. Alignment of the QEP with the institution's strategic planning is important to further the mission and vision of the College.

Why Should I Care about the QEP?

As more and more of Mayland students decide to embrace online learning as part of their educational journey, the College must be prepared to promote actions that encourage their success. We truly want to see our students succeed.

In Volume Two of *QEP Matters*, we will address the ***Preparing Students to Learn Online: Are You Ready?*** goals, program outcomes, and student learning outcomes.