

Life After Mary Washington



Making Career and Life Preparation part of the fabric and culture of UMW

What is a QEP?

QEP stands for Quality Enhancement Plan. As part of our reaffirmation of accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), UMW must develop, implement, and complete a plan to enhance student learning and success. The QEP is a comprehensive, five-year plan designed to benefit students. To ensure the success of the plan, the UMW community should familiarize itself with the plan.

Our QEP: Life After Mary Washington

The QEP builds on the After Mary Washington general education requirement and brings together a portfolio of options for career and life preparation. This work will establish life and career preparation as a natural part of our university's culture, creating a common focus and energy geared toward the kind of student success that stretches beyond the campus experience.

In 2019, we attached credit and requirement to what we believe students need upon graduation as part of our new General Education Requirements. In this new requirement, we placed emphasis on students being able to assess their values, communicate strengths and weaknesses and have the capacity to build networks. We've learned that students need more than a single, credit-bearing experience to prepare for their future. They need access to and a framework for a robust collection of experiences. The QEP aims to take this to the next level! It will guide us to provide students with the knowledge, information, and resources to use their entire four years to prepare for Life After Mary Washington. We've long held the Liberal Arts as the essence of the UMW educational experience, and with this plan, we are asking students to reflect on what that means and articulate it in meaningful ways as a component of who they are and who they've become. It is our approach to fully address the connection between the Liberal Arts and life and learning after college.



What is the purpose of this QEP?

This QEP, *Preparing Students for Life After Mary Washington* will create a culture around the Mary Washington experience as preparation for life and career. Successful implementation of the QEP will equip students with the necessary structure and support to develop the skills that will help them thrive during and after their time at UMW. Ten core competencies will guide the development and delivery of student co-curricular experiences. Our plan will create a cultural pillar of the UMW student experience through academic preparation and structured experiential and co-curricular endeavors.

Our plan is distinctive in several ways:

- ✓ It starts early, introducing students to the competencies soon after admission;
- ✓ It involves all of us because the entirety of the UMW experience, both inside and outside of the classroom offers preparation for life and career;
- ✓ It introduces students to the 10 core competencies that are central to life and career;
- ✓ It supports students in keeping track of all that they do in a co-curricular transcript; and
- ✓ It comes with a robust communication plan to facilitate the integration for students, faculty, and staff.

What are the ten core competencies mentioned in this QEP?

Students will learn about the ten core competencies and find ways to experience and refine their capacities through a combination of curricular and co-curricular experiences. The ten competencies are listed below:



Career, Self Development and Professionalism



Civic Engagement and Community Service



Communication



Critical Thinking



Teamwork and Collaboration



Global Awareness and Intercultural Competence



Leadership



Digital Fluency



Well-being and Mindfulness



Meaningful Connections

What are the learning outcomes for this QEP?

Learning Outcome 1: Students will connect their liberal arts and sciences education with the ten core competencies and understand how they relate to life and career after Mary Washington.

Learning Outcome 2: Students will communicate their experiences in a way that is relevant to their life and career after Mary Washington.