

UCF: (Y)our (E)ssential (S)kills to Career Readiness!

University of Central Florida
Quality Enhancement Plan Concept Paper

Executive Summary

Description: The University of Central Florida has the unique capability to serve as a national model for career-readiness. We will harness our power in leadership training, simulation, avatar-based learning, and partnerships to increase the career-readiness of our students. This QEP will capitalize on these rich and diverse resources to build career success within the curriculum and in co-curricular community activities.

Data from numerous national sources clearly indicate that graduating students lack specific job, life, and career skills. In a poll taken by Northeastern University (2013), the public expressed concern about graduates' preparedness for the workforce. Business leaders indicate the need for graduates to be broadly educated beyond learned content to solve problems, think critically and creatively, communicate effectively, and work well in teams (Berrett, 2013; Supiano, 2013; Tugend, 2013). In a recent student survey, Zogby Analytics report that students no longer want to complete majors that are not tied directly to job-related skills (2014). Our QEP will directly address these issues and needs.

Four pillars identified as essential to the success and career readiness of all UCF graduates are: 1) communication, 2) self-management, 3) critical thinking, and 4) teamwork (see Figure 1). These skills may not necessarily be secured from traditional coursework. The UCF YES! QEP will provide a university-wide framework that will enable students to gain professional, social, and life skills essential for career readiness beyond graduation. To ensure the success of this framework, the QEP will also incorporate an assessment plan reflective of the student's discipline.

Vision: The framework within the proposed UCF YES! QEP uses experiential-based methods to provide students with a set of essential skills that are not typically acquired through traditional teaching methods. The students will access an individual activity portal for tracking progress towards the achievement of goals. UCF students will be provided opportunities within the classroom and through co-curricular activities to develop the set of YES! skills. Our vision is to outfit students with core skills that will ensure their employability, career readiness, and success in post-UCF endeavors.

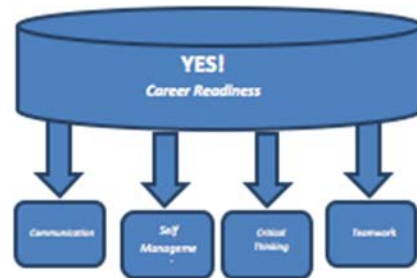


Figure 1: Pillars of (Y)our (E)ssential (S)kills!

Congruence with the university's mission and plan: Our objectives are aligned with the university's mission of providing the best undergraduate education in the state of Florida and becoming *America's leading partnership university™*.