



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

AIR UNIVERSITY QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

A Quality Enhancement Plan or QEP is a carefully designed course of action to address a university's educational needs. A QEP is required for any post-secondary institution seeking re-affirmation of accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the regional accrediting body for Air University. Failure to develop or implement an acceptable QEP can result in loss of academic accreditation.

A QEP entails thorough institutional assessment, selection of one topic to improve student learning and establishment of measurable objectives. This builds the university's capacity to meet these objectives and builds the involvement of broad constituencies to sustain it. In the process, a QEP changes the accreditation process into an on-going activity that promotes educational improvement, intellectual innovation and institutional change.

Air University's QEP provides a scientifically sound and institutionally sustainable plan to develop cross-culturally competent (3C) Airmen through the professional military education (PME) system. AU's QEP emphasizes a "culture-general" approach to 3C: "The ability to quickly and accurately comprehend, then appropriately and effectively act in a culturally complex environment to achieve the desired effect." This means that AU's QEP distinguishes cultural from regional and foreign language learning, focusing primarily on culture, supported by the others.

AU's QEP is an ambitious and potentially transformative undertaking ...

- It is pioneering: No institution of the Air Force's size has systematically built 3C across its entire workforce over the course of a generation.
- It is relevant: Developing Airmen's 3C helps achieve mission success while reducing the potential consequences of operating in culturally complex environments.
- It is scientific and sustainable: Planning and education are grounded in rigorous research, then integrated to core courses.
- It is broad reaching: Education is provided to officers and enlisted personnel at all levels.

Efforts are organized along five lines:

1. Establishing a common approach to culture.
2. Modifying existing curricula as possible and developing new elements as necessary.
 - This entails courses at the Community College of the Air Force, Non-commissioned Officer Academy, Senior Non-commissioned Officer Academy, Officer Training School, Squadron Officer School, Air Command & Staff College and Air War College.
3. Preparing faculty and staff to facilitate student learning.
 - Some professional development occurs at specialized workshops/seminars, but most is conducted on campus for different academic units.
4. Acquiring world-class educational resources.
 - See the QEP collection at the MS Fairchild Research Information Center and our website.
5. Developing/adapting reliable and valid assessment instruments to meet military requirements.

AU's QEP was reviewed by SACS in March 2009, implemented that Fall and formally approved in January 2010. It is evaluated annually by the Air University President and Commander.

For more information, see www.culture.af.mil, e-mail afclc.pa@maxwell.af.mil or call 334-953-7729.