

The QEP Newsletter



EKU will graduate informed critical and creative thinkers who communicate effectively.

Explore • Evaluate • Expand •

Critical Thinking Teacher of the Year Awards

are given every spring to student-nominated instructors whose teaching techniques and interactions with students promote critical/creative thinking. This year 15 award winners were selected from a total of 275 nominated instructors. The student comments are an indication of the significant progress Eastern Kentucky University is making on its Quality Enhancement Plan to promote critical/creative thinking and communication.

WINNERS:

2013 Critical Thinking Teachers of the Year

Full-Time Faculty/Staff

- **Ryan Baggett**, *Safety, Security, & Emergency Management*
- **Myra Beth Bundy**, *Psychology*
- **Jerry Cook**, *Physics & Astronomy*
- **Allen Engle**, *Management, Marketing, & International Business*
- **Stephen Haggerty**, *NOVA Program*
- **Charles Hughes**, *Special Education*
- **Robert Karolich**, *Anthropology, Sociology, & Social Work*
- **Mary Ann Kolloff**, *Library Science*
- **Fred May**, *Safety, Security, & Emergency Management*
- **Christopher Neumann**, *English & Theater*
- **Marsha Roberts**, *Nursing*

Part-Time Instructors

- **Christy Hardin**, *Safety, Security, & Emergency Management*
- **John Hearn**, *First Year Courses*
- **Wini Utari**, *Anthropology, Sociology, & Social Work*
- **April Ballard-Warren**, *First Year Courses*

See all 275 nominees & student comments about the winners on the QEP website.

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN: The First Five Years

In 2007 EKU adopted its first QEP: *EKU will graduate informed critical and creative thinkers who communicate effectively.*

In spring 2013 we submitted the five-year QEP progress report. Comments from SACS about our QEP efforts were all positive!
View the report and comments from SACS on the QEP website.

Early QEP efforts focused on initiatives designed to promote QEP goals, and educate the campus community. The Paul & Elder Model was adopted as a common language for teaching a process of critical/creative thinking.

These efforts led to a shift in institutional culture and QEP goals became an essential part of the University Strategic Plan: *Every academic program must have student learning outcomes focused on critical/creative thinking and communication, and to evaluate those outcomes at the program level.*

ASSURING STUDENT LEARNING OF QEP GOALS

ASSURANCE OF LEARNING

What is Assurance of Learning?

Assurance of learning is a process of evaluating student outcomes to assure that students graduate with the knowledge and skills that are essential for their future lives and careers.

Who decides what to evaluate?

Outcomes must include critical/creative thinking and communication, but faculty identify the *program-specific* knowledge and skills that students should have before graduation.

How are the outcomes evaluated?

Faculty design senior-level assignments through which students demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Faculty evaluate students' work based on expectations and criteria set by the program's faculty members.

MOCK INTERVIEWS

Did you know that mock interviews can be used for assurance of learning?

Faculty can use mock interviews to evaluate programs from the perspective of employers. Learn how on Assurance of Learning Day.

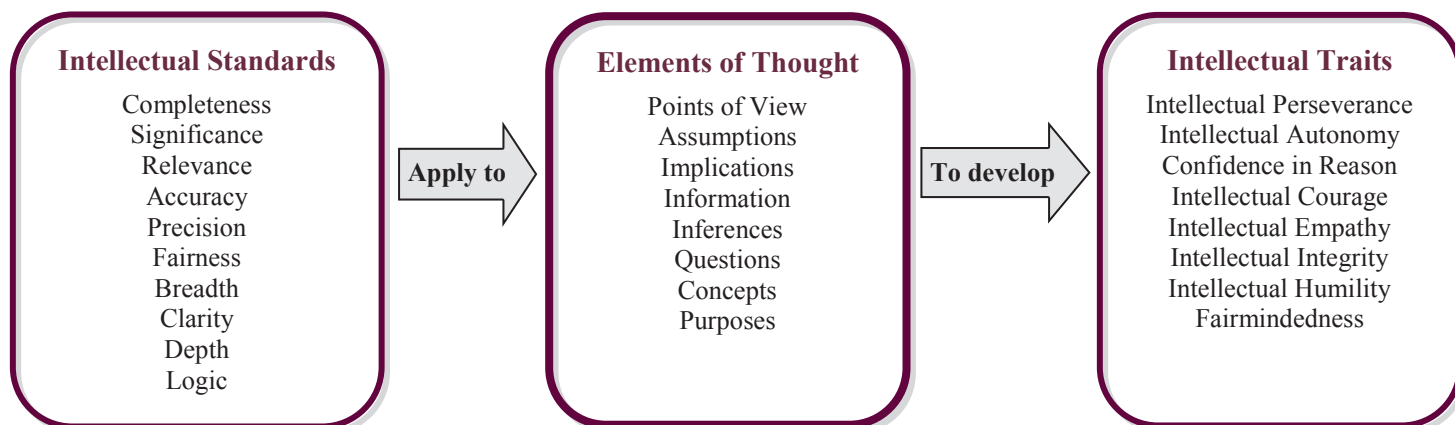
- What do students tell potential employers about programs?
- What career-relevant knowledge and skills do students say they learned in their courses?

Faculty may be surprised !



MAINTAINING THE FOCUS ON QEP GOALS

PAUL & ELDER MODEL of CRITICAL THINKING



Focus on Faculty & Staff Learning

- ◆ Teaching & Learning Center *Sample Workshops*
 - ◇ Foundations of Critical Thinking
 - ◇ Employing Critical Thinking in the Classroom
 - ◇ Questioning Clusters and Modeling
 - ◇ Teaching Creative Thinking
 - ◇ *Additional workshops and details* <http://tlc.eku.edu>
- ◆ qepCafe
- ◆ Critical Thinking Test (CAT) scoring workshops
- ◆ Noel Studio consultant training
- ◆ Assurance of Learning workshops/resources

Focus on Student Learning

- ◆ Paul & Elder Model infused in curricula
 - ◇ Student Success Seminars
 - ◇ Academic Learning Communities
 - ◇ ENG 101 & CMS 100
 - ◇ Numerous other courses designed by dedicated faculty
- ◆ Writing-Intensive Courses
- ◆ Service Learning Program
- ◆ ACCT (Applied Critical & Creative Thinking) Requirement
- ◆ Mock Interview Program
- ◆ Undergraduate Research

Creativity: Teaching & Learning

Did you know? Employers identify creativity as a much-needed and often overlooked skill.

Minor in Applied Creativity helps students learn to think more creatively and apply those skills to the careers of their choice. <http://www.studio.eku.edu/>

Noel Studio for Academic Creativity is designed to improve communication & research skills through a collaborative, innovative learning experience. <http://www.studio.eku.edu/>

Teaching & Learning Center provides faculty & staff with resources to cultivate a dynamic learning experience through the use of innovative pedagogy and technology. <http://tlc.eku.edu/>



Resources

- (QEP) <http://associatedeanup.eku.edu/>
 - ◆ QEP 5th-Year Report & Comments from SACS
 - ◆ Critical Thinking Teachers of the Year: Nominees & Student Comments about Winners
 - ◆ Assurance of Learning Resources
 - ◆ Writing Intensive Course Assistance
- (qepCafe) <https://sites.google.com/site/qepcafe>
 - ◆ Critical thinking training & teaching resources
- (Institutional Effectiveness) <http://www.oie.eku.edu/>
 - ◆ CAT scoring workshop information
 - ◆ Assurance of Learning Resources
- (Service Learning) <http://servicelearning.eku.edu/>
 - ◆ Service Learning Program
- (First Year Courses) <http://firstyearcourses.eku.edu/>
 - ◆ Student Success Seminars
 - ◆ Academic Learning Communities
- (Undergraduate Research) <http://our.eku.edu/>
 - ◆ Office of Undergraduate Research