

## UWG QEP Topic Submission

**QEP topics should be submitted using this form and address each question below:**

<b>1) What QEP topic are you submitting? (5-10 words)</b>
Civic Engagement
<b>2) What is UWG currently doing in this area relative to student learning?</b>
<p>The American Democracy project at the University of West Georgia cultivates civic engagements for students, faculty and staff that constitute the University community. It has three main goals: to promote community/campus involvement; to facilitate student participation and interest in government; and to create greater awareness of issues impacting the community.</p> <p>Some activities promoted through UWG involvement in ADP have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* voter registration drive</li><li>* the campus distinguished speaker program</li><li>* student voluntary participation in campus/community programs</li><li>* the student newspaper readership program</li><li>* Annual West Georgia Regional Water Conference</li></ul> <p>These activities have for several years had attention through a small group of faculty directly with their students and through some events that were/are campus wide. There is not, however, a general campus atmosphere of “civic engagement” connecting individuals associated with UWG with issues that are very significant in the well-being in the broad community of which UWG is a part.</p>
<b>3) How does this topic relate to the UWG strategic plan and/or assessment data?</b>
<p>From the UWG 2010-2015 Strategic Plan:</p> <p>Four Guiding Principles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Academic Programs Balancing Liberal Arts with Professional Preparation</li><li>2. A Campus that is Safe, Engaging, and Exciting</li><li>3. Steady and Intelligent Enrollment and Resource Growth</li><li>4. Meaningful Engagement with Off-campus Communities</li></ol> <p>Any of these principles indicates and indeed requires a knowledge of and relationship with the community of influence surrounding UWG, but probably the most directly connected in terms of “civic engagement” is the last one. With regard to this, the Strategic Plan includes the following statement:</p> <p>“Finally, we are committed to our external community from Atlanta to India to Japan, but we are quite mindful of our local community of Carrollton, Georgia, and will build on all of our current obligations of giving students opportunities for service work in the community even as we invite the community into our campus and thus work together to develop our neighborhood as a recognizable university village.”</p> <p>And, from the “Essential Activities” listed under the Mission Statement on the UWG website, two specific goals for instruction are:</p>

\*Instruction in general education and the promotion of life-long learning that together lay the foundations of what is essential to being an educated person.

\*A broad range of public service activities and proactive partnerships that: promote more effective utilization of human and natural resources; contribute to economic, social and technical development; and enhance the quality of life within the University's scope of influence.

The Strategic Plan, the current Mission Statement, and the Essential Activities all indicate an awareness and a plan for UWG to promote the concept of "civic engagement." For this to happen effectively and to become a viable part of the personality of UWG, these threads should be incorporated as requirements in the various departments of each of the colleges and should be stated in measurable terms in offerings within each department and program.

Ultimately each student, in order to graduate, should demonstrate through requirements that can be met in a variety of courses:

1. awareness of issues facing the UWG "community of influence" (hereafter referred to as "community") and
2. individual responsibility to be an active participant in the community and the various forms for such participation .
3. active participation in programs which are designed to inform, develop, and/or implement potential ways to address issues in the UWG community.