

**QUANTITATIVE SCHOLARSHIP: FROM LITERACY TO MASTERY**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT SAN ANTONIO  
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

**Executive Summary**

UTSA's vision is to be a premier public research university, providing access to educational excellence and preparing citizen leaders for the global environment. In this new environment, quantitative reasoning skills are essential for all citizens to help them understand and critically evaluate information to make better-informed decisions. UTSA's **Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): *Quantitative Scholarship: From Literacy to Mastery*** addresses this critical need by providing students with quantitative skills through an enhanced curriculum focused on contextual learning that will help them succeed in this data-rich environment. The mission and goals of the QEP are aligned with UTSA's Strategic Plan and directly support the University's first strategic initiative to enrich the educational experience of its graduates. The QEP also provides a structured framework within which to implement the recommendations of the UTSA Blue Ribbon Committee on the Undergraduate Experience that was charged with identifying the knowledge and skills that all UTSA undergraduates should have upon graduation.

The student learning goals of the QEP will help undergraduate students (a) acquire basic quantitative literacy and numeracy skills, (b) effectively communicate the results of their quantitative analysis, and (c) acquire discipline-specific advanced quantitative skills. This primary focus of enhancing student learning to develop quantitatively trained graduates is achieved through a well-designed curriculum that seamlessly integrates these skills in courses across the undergraduate curriculum. The curriculum redesign will adopt existing best practices for teaching and learning quantitative skills and will be implemented in two phases.

PHASE I. The first phase of the curriculum redesign plan will focus on courses in the Natural Sciences and Social and Behavioral Sciences domains of the University's core curriculum. All first-time full-time undergraduates at UTSA must complete eight courses from these domains and will, therefore, have the opportunity to see multiple applications of quantitative skills in a variety of different contexts.

PHASE II. The second phase of the curriculum redesign will focus on courses at the upper-division level in disciplines where advanced mathematical, statistical, and computational

tools are essential. Transfer students will have the opportunity to enroll in these upper-division courses or complete mandatory quantitative literacy workshops.

The implementation plan includes an intensive training program for faculty to help with course redesign and assessment. Faculty members participating in the QEP will receive summer support in the form of course development grants. The QEP also includes a detailed program of assessment and evaluation to ensure progress toward the vision and goals. The results of the assessments will be used to monitor the progress of the plan and make continuous improvements as needed.

The QEP has broad-based support across the University and represents a truly collaborative effort to increase the quality of undergraduate education at UTSA. The University has committed \$4 million of new funds over the five-year period, with a majority of the budget allocated for instructional support including faculty stipends and funds for Teaching Assistants. The administrative oversight will be provided by the Associate Vice-Provost for the QEP and the Core Curriculum, and the responsibility for the overall implementation will rest with the QEP Project Director. Over the next five years, the QEP will provide the organizational framework and resources for an institutional transformation to graduate a quantitative, informed citizenry consistent with the mission and vision of the University. The QEP provides the vision for the creation of an exemplary program that will transform the environment to one where quantitative reasoning skills are ingrained in not only the curriculum, but also the culture of UTSA.

More information regarding the QEP, including the complete plan, can be found on-line at [www.utsa.edu/sacs](http://www.utsa.edu/sacs)