

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY  
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN**

**Year 1 Annual Report  
November 2023 – September 2024**



**Major Accomplishments**

The following is a list of major accomplishments and outcomes of the QEP team from November 2023 to September 2024. The focus for Year 1 was to explore potential topics and narrow the focus.

**1. The QEP Leadership Team Convened**

Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Development began in November of 2023 with the recruitment of the QEP Leadership Team (QEP LT, see Table below). The team was recruited by Dr. Mary Hoffschwelle and supported by Ms. Layne Bryant. The QEP LT was charged by President McPhee with 1) Convening and guiding the University QEP Topic Selection Committee in identifying the best topic for our QEP, and 2) Once the topic is selected, organizing a larger QEP Development Committee to develop the plan MTSU will submit to SACSCOC in early 2026. The team also attended a SACSCOC professional development workshop in New Orleans (July 2024) in which we engaged in discussions with colleagues and leaders about the QEP process.

<b>Dr. Chandra R. Story (Director)</b>	Professor	Health & Human Performance	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/chandra-russell-story">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/chandra-russell-story</a>
<b>Dr. Nita Brooks</b>	Professor	Information Systems & Analytics	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/nita-brooks">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/nita-brooks</a>
<b>Dr. Grant Gardner</b>	Professor	Biology	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/grant-e-gardner">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/grant-e-gardner</a>
<b>Dr. Jenna Gray-Hildenbrand</b>	Professor	Philosophy & Religious Studies	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/jenna-gray-hildenbrand">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/jenna-gray-hildenbrand</a>

## 2. The QEP LT Carefully Reviewed SACSCOC and MTSU Planning Resources

During the late Fall 2023 academic year, the QEP LT reviewed previous QEP projects at MTSU, QEP projects at other sister institutions, and the SACSCOC QEP Evaluation Framework to guide their thinking. The QEP LT also carefully reviewed the University’s current mission and goals, Academic Master Plan (AMP), and Quest for Student Success.

During this review process, we noted that the current Academic Master Plan and the Quest for Student Success are being phased out in 2025. As such, the Leadership Team made the decision not to rely on these soon-to-be outdated documents, but to instead work in close concert with the Strategic Planning Committee who are engaged in a process that will define the next ten years of strategic decision making at MTSU. That said, we did not ignore data related to the successes and challenges of previous MTSU initiatives.

## 3. The QEP Topic Selection Committee Convened and Generated QEP Ideas

The QEP Topic Selection Committee (QEP TSC, see Table below) convened early in Spring 2024. The QEP TSC comprised fifteen members intentionally selected to represent: 1) as many of the University’s colleges as possible, and 2) a diversity of stakeholders who might hold different priorities and views related to student success. This group was charged with developing and presenting recommendations for the Quality Enhancement Plan Topic by the end of the Summer 2024 academic semester.

The QEP TSC, which met monthly during Spring 2024, was guided by [SACSCOC QEP Policy](#) and the [QEP evaluation rubric](#). The QEP Leadership Team engaged the QEP TSC in several activities including: 1) reviewing the SACSCOC and MTSU planning resources, 2) reviewing various sources of data (see #4 below), and 2) engaging in idea generation and data refinement exercises.

<b>Dr. Michelle Arnold</b>	Assoc. Vice Provost of Student Success	Student Success	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/michelle-g-arnold">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/michelle-g-arnold</a>
<b>Ms. Ginelle Baskin</b>	Student Success & Open Education Librarian	Walker Library	<a href="https://library.mtsu.edu/c.php?g=1186235">https://library.mtsu.edu/c.php?g=1186235</a>
<b>Dr. Jenn Caputo</b>	Professor, Interim Director of LT&ITC	Health & Human Performance	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/jennifer-l-caputo">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/jennifer-l-caputo</a>
<b>Jayla Cole</b>	Student	Sorority Life, Sigma Gamma Rho	
<b>Dr. Clair Cook</b>	Associate Professor	Human Sciences	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/j-claire-cook">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/j-claire-cook</a>
<b>Dr. Matthew Duncan</b>	Interim Chair	University Studies	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/matthew-d-duncan">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/matthew-d-duncan</a>
<b>Dr. Michael Erskine</b>	Associate Professor	Information Systems & Analytics	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/michael-a-erskine">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/michael-a-erskine</a>
<b>Dr. Ron Henderson</b>	Chair	Physics & Astronomy	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/ron-henderson">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/ron-henderson</a>
<b>Dr. Shannon Harmon</b>	Associate Professor	Elementary & Special Education	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/shannon-harmon">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/shannon-harmon</a>
<b>Dr. Karen K. Hein</b>	Instructional Designer	MTSU Online	<a href="https://www.mtsu.edu/online/staff/">https://www.mtsu.edu/online/staff/</a>

<b>Dr. Richard Lewis</b>	Associate Professor	Media Arts	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/richard-w-lewis">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/richard-w-lewis</a>
<b>Ms. Beka Moore</b>	Director	Career Development Center	<a href="https://www.mtsu.edu/career/contact/">https://www.mtsu.edu/career/contact/</a>
<b>Dr. Andrew Polk</b>	Associate Professor	History	<a href="https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/andrew-r-polk">https://w1.mtsu.edu/faculty/andrew-r-polk</a>
<b>Dr. Danielle Rochelle</b>	Director of Intercultural & Diversity Affairs	Center for Student Involvement & Leadership	<a href="https://involve.mtsu.edu/bios_drochelle/">https://involve.mtsu.edu/bios_drochelle/</a>
<b>Safia Soliman</b>	Student	Religious Studies BA Arabic Minor	

**4. The QEP LT and TSC Reviewed and Synthesized Data**

The QEP TSC reviewed several data sources to revise and refine potential QEP topics. Data sources included anecdotal data from their colleagues, institutional data from MTSU and other sister universities, and research reports. The QEP Leadership Committee met with Chris Brewer and Jeri Ann Clark in MTSU’s Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning, and Research (IEPR). They provided us with information dashboard resources to access and explore institutional data. QEP TSC discussed the data, generated potential QEP topics based on this data, and generated a ranked list of QEP topics based on this data.

One important source of data from university stakeholders was collected from the Strategic Planning Committee. The University was developing a new ten-year Institutional Strategic Plan for 2025-2035. As part of this process the University was soliciting data from the student, faculty, staff, and alumni community through a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) survey. The QEP LT and TSC saw this as an opportunity to gather critical data as to the University perspective on what they saw as the University’s Strengths related to student success as well as where they saw potential areas of improvement. The Strategic Plan website, <https://www.mtsu.edu/strategicplan/>, provides a summary of SWOT activities from Spring 2024.

**5. The QEP LT Refined Potential QEP Topics**

During Summer 2024, the QEP Leadership Team refined the four potential QEP topics resulting from discussions with the QEP TSC. The team refined the definitions of each of the QEP Topics, ensured there was sufficient institutional and external data to support the alignment of these topics with student success, suggested potential student learning outcomes, and offered suggestions for how various stakeholders might engage with each of the potential QEP topics. MTSU librarians provided support by developing a bibliography for each of the four topics.

**Potential QEP Topic Sheets Here:** [QEP Concept Papers\\_CRS\\_82324\(1\).docx](#)

1. Mental Wellness
2. Belonging
3. Career Readiness
4. Digital Fluency

## **6. The QEP LT Began Building Infrastructure for Project Dissemination and Support**

The QEP Leadership Team began to build the infrastructure to support the future development and implementation of the QEP project. Both a Graduate Student Assistant and Administrative Assistant were hired to support the project. The initial development and design of the QEP website was constructed <https://www.mtsu.edu/qep/>

The QEP Director and Vice Provost for Strategic Planning and Partnerships met with the Provost and University President to share the four potential topics for the QEP.