



Name of Institution:

River Parishes Community College
7384 John LeBlanc Blvd. Sorrento, LA 70778

QEP Title:

Knowledge is Power:
Improving Students' Information Literacy Skills

QEP Coordinator:

Dr. Crystal Lee, Dean of Academic Studies
Phone: (225) 675-8270
Email: clee@rpcc.edu

Improving Students Information Literacy Skills

Introduction and Goal of the QEP

River Parishes Community College is a two-year post-secondary public institution providing transferable courses and curricula up to and including certificates and associate degrees. While some students attend the College to enhance skills for the workforce, the majority of RPCC's students attend the College with the intent to transfer to a university. In order to better prepare them, the goal of the College's Quality Enhancement Plan is to improve students' information literacy skills.

QEP Learning Outcomes

The QEP focuses on five student learning outcomes. These are drawn from the American College and Research Libraries (ACRL) *Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education* and the ACRL Objectives for Information Literacy Instruction.
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency.cfm> & <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/standards/objectivesinformation.cfm>

The QEP student learning outcomes are as follows:

- 1.) The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.
- 2.) The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently
- 3.) The information literate student evaluates information and its sources critically and incorporates selected information into his or her knowledge base and value system.
- 4.) The information literate student, individually or as a member of a group, uses information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.
- 5.) The information literate student understands many of the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information and accesses and uses information ethically and legally.

QEP Implementation and Assessment

The College will measure the QEP learning outcomes using external and internal assessments. Specifically, RPCC will assess student performance of two groups during the life of the QEP measuring performance of freshmen and that of 30+ hour students to determine gains in information literacy competencies. The direct measures include SAILS: Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills developed by Kent State University and the College's current general education assessment process as it relates to information literacy. The indirect measures include use of CCSSE: Community College Survey of Student Engagement and the College's library statistics and bibliographic instruction surveys. SAILS and the general education assessment tools are knowledge-based assessments that will provide direct information on students' information literacy competencies. CCSSE and the College library data will provide relevant associated data concerning instructional practices and student activities that promote and facilitate information literacy competencies.