

DRAFT

Educating and Equipping Women to Excel: Improving Critical Thinking
Meredith College QEP Student Learning Outcomes
Revised: March 23, 2009

QEP Mission Statement

The QEP at Meredith is designed to equip students with the intellectual skills and virtues that encourage critical thinking. Students will engage actively in their own learning process and exercise intellectual fair-mindedness, humility, courage, empathy, integrity, and perseverance. This focus on critical thinking throughout the Meredith experience will foster traits or dispositions of mind in our students that will empower them to excel in life-long learning, careers, leadership roles, and service.

Outcomes

As a result of the QEP, students at Meredith will demonstrate

Cognitive Growth

Students will:

- Apply skills of reason, critique and creative thought through
 - reading critically by clarifying and critiquing text
 - listening critically
 - evaluating generalizations, contradictions and biases
- Integrate knowledge from a variety of sources and disciplines through
 - gathering and evaluating the credibility of multiple sources of information
 - interpreting the interconnectedness/complexity of knowledge
 - synthesizing concepts both within and across disciplines
 - using appropriate and emergent technology
- Raise important questions and formulate solutions to complex problems by
 - posing questions and problems clearly and precisely
 - coming to well-reasoned conclusions
 - testing solutions against relevant values and standards
 - utilizing multiple strategies for problem solving

Personal Intellectual Development

Students will:

- Develop intellectual curiosity by
 - thinking independently and being active in the learning process
 - examining both cultural and personal thoughts and ideas
 - practicing Socratic discussion: clarifying and questioning perspectives, beliefs, or theories

- Analyze, assess, and reconstruct their ways of thinking through
 - identifying the weaknesses of their own conclusions, theories, and points of view
 - exploring implications and consequences of their past and future actions
 - improving their intellectual skills and virtues
- Exercise open-mindedness to new ideas or ways of thinking by
 - defending and supporting opposing sides of an academic discourse
 - appreciating and respecting diverse views and solutions
 - demonstrating interest in both depth and breadth of fields of study

Effective Communication

Students will:

- Demonstrate creative capacities through
 - writing, speaking and presenting
 - inventing, hypothesizing, designing, or performing
 - utilizing multi-modal tools of communication
- Develop the art of conversation and civil discourse through
 - communicating effectively both face-to-face and electronically
 - demonstrating habits of mutual respect and civil disagreement
 - seeking to understand multiple perspectives

Ethical and Effective Leadership Skills

Students will:

- Reflect both in and on action by
 - testing actions against relevant principles of effective leadership
 - modifying decisions as needed
 - transforming behavior and modes of thinking
- Act responsibly through
 - considering the rights of others
 - formulating courses of action based on their conclusions
 - working to improve the world