

**University of West Georgia**  
**Quality Enhancement Plan: Career Readiness through Experiential Learning**  
**Summer 2025 Faculty Seed Grant Summer Collaborative Institute**  
**From Classrooms to Careers**

## **Executive Summary**

The University of West Georgia's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)—Career Readiness through Experiential Learning—seeks to strengthen the connection between experiential learning and the development of career readiness competencies for undergraduate students, beginning in their very first semester and continuing through their senior-level courses as they transition to their careers. UWG's QEP directly supports the institution's Strategic Plan—Becoming UWG, and specifically the goal to “launch or advance each student's career before graduation” by providing students with access to high-quality experiential learning opportunities. The Strategic Plan further states that UWG will “define pathways to post-graduation through an institutional commitment to elevating and advancing internships, experiential learning, intentional mentorship, and professional and community-based networking for all students.” Further, the QEP will bolster the institutional commitment referenced in the Strategic Plan while helping faculty, staff, and, most importantly, UWG's undergraduate students to recognize, value and thoughtfully apply the connections between career readiness and experiential learning.

As part of the university's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Career Readiness through Experiential Learning, a grant has been created to financially assist faculty looking to pursue new avenues of experiential and work-based learning activities in their classrooms.

Therefore, the University of West Georgia is soliciting proposals for the **Quality Enhancement Plan's (QEP) Faculty Seed Grant Collaborative Summer Institute**, scheduled for June 2-4, 2025. This initiative aims to foster innovative approaches to student learning experiences aligned with the QEP's objectives.

## **Program Overview**

Six QEP grantee recipients will each earn \$1500 for participating in a three-day intensive institute on campus at the IFE in which they will collaborate and design specific learning experiences for students related to the QEP, with the goal of empowering faculty colleagues in designing student scholarly or creative activities for courses. Those attending the QEP Summer Institute will produce projects or activities broadly applicable to multiple disciplines (two or more).

This **program** will prioritize proposals that **focus on career readiness and experiential learning** through a variety of projects and are adaptable for higher-enrollment courses (30+). This is an opportunity to innovate, explore ideas, and fuel research and creative aspirations.

## **Key Objectives**

- Develop projects applicable across multiple disciplines
- Clearly articulate assessment instruments for each project
- Prioritize initiatives focusing on career readiness and experiential learning
- Encourage innovation and research in pedagogical approaches

## **Application Requirements**

1. **Project Narrative (300-500 words)**
  - Summarize the project's purpose, plan, and timeline
  - Include course name, description, and average student enrollment
  - Outline the scope and intended outcomes
  - Describe the assessment instrument and cross-disciplinary adaptability
2. **Materials Description**
  - Detail the materials to be created and their impact on student success
3. **Future Plans**
  - Outline potential publications or project modifications

## **Eligibility Criteria**

- Courses must incorporate at least two of the QEP's Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):
  1. Student Learning Outcome 1: ENVISION: "Within their first year, students will identify and describe experiential learning opportunities and career readiness competencies relevant to their professional goals."
  2. Student Learning Outcome 2: ENACT: "Students will analyze and reflect on the career readiness competencies cultivated through their participation in experiential learning opportunities." This outcome and associated instrument are aimed at measuring the student's ability to connect career readiness competencies with a completed experiential learning opportunity
  3. Student Learning Outcome 3: SHOWCASE: "Before graduation, students will create an artifact that articulates the integration between their experiential learning activities and the career readiness competencies that they developed." A central aim of higher education is to help prepare the students for their next educational or professional opportunities.
- Experiential learning activity or series of activities and accompanying assessments that integrate career-readiness competencies into UWG's QEP SLOs.
- Post-institute reflection
- Implementation report
- Applicants must be full-time university faculty members assigned to teach the proposed course
- Both 10- and 12-month faculty are eligible
- Able to commit to three days: June 2, 2025 – June 4, 2025 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be assessed based on:

- Alignment with QEP goals and objectives (30 points)
- Intellectual merit (30 points)
- Project design clarity and appropriateness (20 points)
- Applicability (20 points)

This initiative represents a significant opportunity for faculty to contribute to the university's commitment to enhancing student learning experiences and career preparedness

## **Tentative Schedule**

### **Day 1: Experiential Learning**

- Introduction experiential learning theories
- Workshops on mapping out experiential learning activities and assessments

### **Day 2: Career-Ready Competencies & Experiential Learning**

- Lessons & workshops on integrating the teaching of career-ready competencies into course materials and assessments

### **Day 3: Authentic Assessments**

- Lessons & workshops on creating authentic assessments

## **To Apply**

Please submit your application (narrative, materials, future plans as outlined above) in pdf format by March 28, 2025, to [gep@westga.edu](mailto:gep@westga.edu).