



QEP Overview

Benedict College has identified financial literacy as the focus of its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The identified QEP topic is in direct alignment with the college's mission, vision, and its 5-year strategic plan, The B.E.S.T. Plan for BC. Further, it reflects an institutional commitment to developing alumni who are culturally aware, professionally competent, financially literate, and ready to enter a global community.

Implications from the coronavirus left many students and their families in vulnerable financial positions, particularly those considered low wealth. The onset of the global pandemic revealed that many of our students lacked basic financial awareness and economic resources to return home on short notice and/or learn remotely. Moreover, institutional data revealed a steady increase in students who “stopped out,” with a subsequent inability to repay their student loans. These observations, coupled with survey findings and student experiences, confirmed the College's conviction that the topic of financial literacy is timely, relevant, and meaningful for our diverse student body.

QEP Goal & Student Outcomes

Benedict's QEP topic amplifies SACSCOC priorities, specifically, substandard 12.6 in that there is a college-wide commitment to ensuring our student borrowers understand how to manage their debt and repay their loans. The QEP presents a single goal - “to transform students' financial futures by intentionally developing their competency in money management, debt, and understanding of common financial operations.” Achievement of the goal will be evidenced by two student outcomes:

- S01** Students will matriculate with less student loan debt.
- S02** Students will demonstrate during their matriculation that they have the knowledge and tools to make effective decisions about financial literacy.

Implications at Benedict College

The QEP implementation will center upon development of culturally sensitive money and debt management modules embedded throughout the college curriculum and supplemented with campus resources that promote sound financial planning. Implemented by both campus faculty and community partners, the program strives to influence current student financial behaviors and improve post-graduation outcomes. This uniquely tailored QEP provides a platform for Benedict College to add its voice to the larger national conversation regarding financial literacy by offering long-term and transformative solutions for vulnerable communities.



Questions regarding Benedict's QEP may be directed to Dr. Walletha Moore Johnson, QEP Committee Co-Chair, Director of Development and Assistant Director, Title III & Sponsored Programs, at Walletha.Johnson@benedict.edu.