

Life After Mary Washington

Integrating the After Mary Washington general education requirement into the fabric and culture of the UMW experience

What is a QEP?

QEP stands for [Quality Enhancement Plan](#). To maintain membership with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges ([SACSCOC](#)), UMW must develop, implement, and complete a QEP as part of its [reaffirmation of accreditation](#). The QEP is a comprehensive, five-year plan designed to enhance the student learning experience. To ensure the success of the plan, the UMW community should familiarize itself with the plan.

UMW's QEP: Life After Mary Washington.

The QEP takes the [After Mary Washington general education requirement](#) and focuses on further enhancement and integration into the fabric of the university's culture, creating a common focus and energy geared toward the kind of student success that stretches beyond the campus experience.

In 2019, we attached credit and requirement to what we believe students need upon graduation as part of our new General Education Requirements. In this new requirement, we placed emphasis on students being able to assess their values, communicate strengths and weaknesses and have the capacity to build networks. We've learned that a single, credit bearing experience is insufficient in creating and documenting the robust collection of experiences that prepare our students for their future. What we failed to do as an institution is provide students with the knowledge, information, and resources to use their entire four years to prepare for Life After Mary Washington. We've long held the Liberal Arts as the essence of the UMW educational experience, but have not asked students to reflect on what that means and articulate it in meaningful ways as a component of who they are and who they've become. This QEP is our approach to fully addressing the connection between the Liberal Arts and work, continued learning, and life after Mary Washington.

What is the purpose of this QEP?

This QEP, *Preparing Students for Life After Mary Washington* will create a culture around the Mary Washington experience as preparation for life and career. Successful implementation of the QEP will equip students with the necessary structure and support to develop the skills that will help them thrive during and after their time at UMW. The [general education requirement, AMW](#), is the vehicle for structuring and delivering that necessary support. This plan acknowledges the existence of and need for AMW courses in specific to disciplines and encourages further development of discipline specific courses. Our plan will take this general education requirement and make it a cultural pillar of the UMW student experience through academic preparation and structured experiential and co-curricular endeavors. This will be achieved through expanded QEP learning outcomes that enhance, but do not change, the AMW requirement, a [co-curricular](#)

[transcript](#) for competencies, and a robust communication plan to facilitate the integration of AMW into the fabric of the university experience for students, faculty, and staff.

What are the ten core competencies mentioned in this QEP?

Students will explore the ten core competencies through a combination of curricular and co-curricular experiences. Many curricular experiences currently exist in General Education coursework and courses approved as After Mary Washington which will be mapped to exploration of one or more of the ten core competencies, such as completion of the Digital Intensive requirement to meet digital fluency. Many co-curricular experiences currently exist and will be recorded through the co-curricular transcript which will be mapped to exploration of one or more of the ten core competencies, such as participation in on-campus employment to gain experience with the professionalism competency. The ten competencies are listed below:

1. Career, Self development and Professionalism
2. Civic Engagement and Community Service
3. Communication
4. Critical Thinking
5. Teamwork and Collaboration
6. Global Awareness and Intercultural Competence
7. Leadership
8. Digital Fluency
9. Well-being and Mindfulness
10. Meaningful Connections

What are the learning outcomes for this QEP?

Learning Outcome 1: Students will know the [ten core competencies](#) (Civic Engagement and Community Service, Communication, Critical Thinking, Interpersonal Relationships, Global Awareness and Intercultural Competence, Professionalism, Leadership, Digital Fluency, Well-being and Mindfulness, and Meaningful Connections) related to preparation for life and career after Mary Washington.

Learning Outcome 2: Students will connect their liberal arts and sciences education and the [ten core competencies](#) (Civic Engagement and Community Service, Communication, Critical Thinking, Interpersonal Relationships, Global Awareness and Intercultural Competence, Professionalism, Leadership, Digital Fluency, Well-being and Mindfulness, and Meaningful Connections) to life and career after Mary Washington.

Learning Outcome 3: Students will be able to communicate their experiences in a way that is relevant to their life and career after Mary Washington.

How will this QEP be assessed?

Learning Outcome	Assessment Data Sources Utilizing portions of the following assessments:
Outcome1: Students will know the ten core competencies related to preparation for life and career after Mary Washington.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Self-Assessment: NACE Competencies Self-Assessment Worksheet (buffalo.edu). Linked to Major declaration● Co-curricular transcripts;● AMW Course evaluation question regarding application to life after Mary Washington.
Outcome 2: Students will connect their liberal arts and sciences education and the ten core competencies to life and career after Mary Washington.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● National Survey of Student Engagement;● AMW learning outcomes;● Alumni survey;● Employer survey;● Exit surveys (Multiple questions plus added questions to include competencies);● AMW Course evaluation question regarding application to life after Mary Washington.
Learning Outcome 3: Students will be able to communicate their experiences in a way that is relevant to their life and career after Mary Washington.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Mock Interviews (Big Interview) to record that are evaluated on a rubric of a sample of students.● Employer Survey● Alumni Survey