

Institutional Capability



3. Our Quality Enhancement Plan

3.1 Overview: The Discovery-Based Learning Initiative

Our Quality Enhancement Plan, named the *Discovery-Based Learning Initiative*, provides opportunities for students to develop research-related skills and engage in research, as well as making available the resources to support both students and faculty. As shown in Figure 1, our plan includes a variety of means to integrate research into the undergraduate experience, ranging from college-wide initiatives involving many students to mentored research projects that focus on a select group of students. Our QEP aims to improve student competencies in critical thinking, information literacy, research ethics, and communication skills.

Our *Discovery-Based Learning Initiative* incorporates research-related skills training through curricular and co-curricular programs to better prepare our students to take advantage of expanded opportunities for undergraduate research (Figure 2). To encourage the development of a research-supportive curriculum, we will initiate a new grant program to support faculty in enhancing existing courses or in developing new courses that focus on research-based learning. Colleges and departments will also be encouraged and supported in their efforts to implement skills training in the core competency areas, such as discipline-specific information literacy training. Co-curricular programs that contribute to the research-readiness of our students include workshops and tutorials developed by resource collaborators, a compilation of real-world team projects for faculty and student teams to access for their courses, a Work-Study Research Internship Program offering opportunities for research-related skills training in campus labs and offices, expanded venues for dissemination of student research and creative works, and a Reality Chats guest speaker program that connects students with practitioners and scholars. Mentored research opportunities will be broadened so that in addition to existing traditional research fellowship programs, students will also benefit from research internships on and off campus and mentored research for course credit.

In their own words...

“If this plan is followed I can see that students will recognize the benefits of being involved in a research institution. UH will attract and retain more academically driven students....Students will see that UH offers real skills and opportunities to prepare for the future jobs that don’t even exist now. I am so excited about all this and hope to be a part of it.”

*Karen W. Parker, Staff
QEP Online Feedback*

Figure 1

Elements of the UH Quality Enhancement Plan

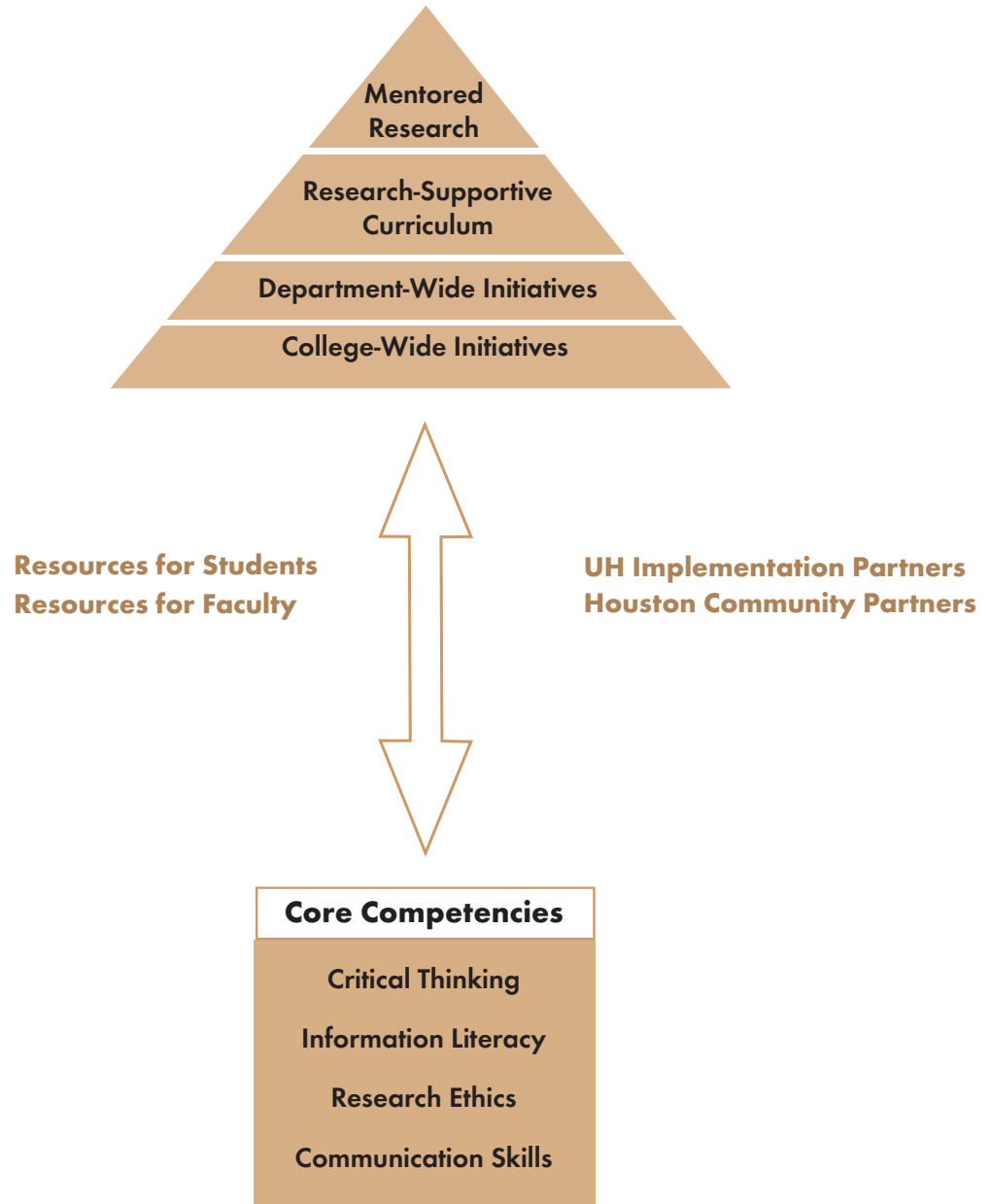


Figure 2

UH Discovery-Based Learning Initiative

