

University of Houston-Clear Lake
Office of Institutional Effectiveness
QEP 2022-Survey Results

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What is your affiliation with UHCL (student, faculty, staff, alumni, community member, other)?	Faculty
Q1. Strategic Theme Addressed:	Educational Achievement
Q2. Brief description/overview of topic:	<p>Attending to Changes in Education in the 21st Century - Hawks ACE the 21st Century</p> <p>We propose addressing the question of what it means to be a twenty-first century university through interdisciplinary conversations focused on our changing context and our student needs. The university as an institution and concept began a millennia ago, and has had a long and hallowed history, but is often slow to change. In the twenty-first century, we need to be agile as an institution, quick to think and act on our feet, and change with the times, which includes responding to student needs, changes in demographics, changes in technology, climate change, and general adaptability to the future; what this translates into practical terms is that our students need to be nimble and adaptable to a future that involves career shifts, practical skills in training and imagining solutions to emerging problems, devising strategies to tackle challenges of the day, reconciling with changing technology and community needs. The university as it operated through most of its history, especially in the twentieth century, is no longer stable given the emergence of open access educational materials, online universities, changing markets, global competition, and multi-tasking adult students who need applied skills along with a well-rounded liberal arts education. The goal of the Hawks ACE the 21st Century QEP is to define our grand purpose and distinctiveness in order to focus on institutional enhancement to adapt to the changes and use our resources to strengthen the strategic themes of educational achievement, inclusive culture and university identity. These goals will be reached through innovative collaboration; the QEP will address all 4 themes, and strengthen the students, community, and university as a whole.</p>

Q3. How will this improve student learning at UHCL?

By focusing on our identity and purpose as a university marching into a new tomorrow, we are future-oriented, and in doing so, will automatically enhance student learning at UHCL. The tiered approach to such a broad vision can be as follows:

- Technology needs and adaptability – by innovating with technology in the classroom, student learning will be strengthened because virtual and remote teaching will improve. Coordinated tech innovation along with creative thinking across the disciplines will yield in quality educational achievement for students.
- Student research – this work will be done with student input in the classroom and research/internship experiences and community engagement beyond the classroom.
- Dexterity during crises – strategizing on how to teach, support research, manage to sustain our university community during uncertain times and ensuing crises can also strengthen student learning and continued progress toward degree completion.
- Purpose – in defining our university identity, and our role and purpose in the future, students will provide input and articulate their own aims and aspirations with a university degree; such a collective outlining of purpose will enhance their learning experience at UHCL since they are part of collectively authoring the script for future generations, marking such efforts as part of our inclusive culture which engages in innovation through collaboration.

The Hawks ACE the 21st Century QEP will allow for interdisciplinary groups of faculty and staff to work with students: in the classroom, in student life, and to involve the community along the way. Through classroom projects, guest lectures, service learning, films, writing projects, art competitions, science experiments and more, we can promote the exploration of our many cultural identities and civic engagement to better understand the demands of our future scholars and the community at large. To give some examples, one year, the theme could be sustainability, addressing climate change; students in and outside the classroom can engage in discussions, projects, and other forms of learning and dialogue on the topic, asking what it means for the future of UHCL and the broader community. The next year, the focus could be changing demographics and the university community (students, faculty and staff) could address UHCL as an HSI as well as the diversity of the university, the region, and the nation, including race/ethnicity, age, sexuality, and other topics. Ultimately, each year there could be a different content area of focus or topic, that exists under the umbrella of “Attending to Changes in Education” or how Hawks ACE the 21st Century.

Q4. What are 3-5 learning outcomes that will lead to observable and measurable results?

1. Advance Problem Solving Skills/increase in solution focused perspective;
2. Improve communication skills (verbal, writing, creative expression, etc.) particularly around hot topics or global challenges;
3. Increase awareness of community and cultural events;
4. Improve levels of civic engagement; and
5. Develop greater bridges between university and community (local/global) to strengthen sustainability.