

Shelton State Community College
REALSKILL: Education that Prepares

According to SACSCOC, a college's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) "is a document developed by the institution that (1) includes a process identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment, (2) focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution, (3) demonstrates institutional capability for the initiation, implementation, and completion of the QEP, (4) includes broad-based involvement of institutional constituencies in the development and proposed implementation of the QEP, and (5) identifies goals and a plan to assess their achievement."

Research conducted at the national and local level points to the following solid conclusion: soft skills education is of paramount importance. Part of the mission of Shelton State Community College is to provide the community with "learning opportunities to advance academic excellence, cultural enrichment, workforce training, and economic development." Addressing soft skills that fall outside traditional academic pursuits but are necessary for future career success aligns with that mission.

Shelton State's mission combined with quantitative and qualitative data at the local and national level provides the foundation for the College's Quality Enhancement Plan, **REALSKILL: Education that Prepares**. The specific skills addressed are decision making, personal responsibility in the form of self-motivation and work ethic, and professional communication. Shelton State's college orientation course (ORI101) and Career Services will facilitate instruction through SkillsUSA Advanced Experiences. Upon satisfactory completion of the first four of the Advanced Experiences in ORI101, students will have the option to continue in the curriculum outside of their orientation course by participating in the last two Advanced Experiences, Change Management and Capstone. In addition to aiding students in developing their soft skills, successful completion of all six Advanced Experiences and the Career-Ready Assessment will culminate with the awarding of the Career Essentials Credential from the nationally recognized, industry-supported SkillsUSA organization.



MISSION

To enhance the quality of education at Shelton State Community College in the area of career-readiness

VISION

To create a REALSKILL Institute that will prepare students to be career-ready

The REALSKILL Institute will consist of the SkillsUSA *Advanced Experiences* and the *Career Essentials Credential*. The REALSKILL Institute will provide students with training in communication, decision making, and personal responsibility in the form of work ethic and self-motivation for successful integration into the workforce.

GOAL 1

Embed the first four SkillsUSA *Advanced Experiences* in the ORI 101 course.

SLO 1.1: Students will demonstrate professional communication skills.

SLO 1.2: Students will demonstrate decision making skills.

SLO 1.3: Students will demonstrate personal responsibility in the form of work ethic and self-motivation.

GOAL 2

Implement the SkillsUSA *Change Management Experience* and *Capstone Experience* through Career Services.

SLO 2.1: Students will apply professional communication skills.

SLO 2.2: Students will apply decision making skills.

SLO 2.3: Students will apply personal responsibility in the form of work ethic and self-motivation.

GOAL 3

Provide REALSKILL Institute students the opportunity to earn the SkillsUSA *Career Essentials Credential* through Career Services.

SLO 3: Students will demonstrate career-readiness.

QEP | IMPLEMENTATION



THE VEHICLE

SkillsUSA *Career Essentials: Advanced Experiences* is composed of six experiences designed to help students become career-ready. The experiences include the following:

- Instructor-led kickoff presentations
- Interactive online modules
- Offline experiential activities
- SkillsUSA badges for each experience
- The *Capstone Experience*, which culminates in a portfolio
- The SkillsUSA *Career Essentials Credential*, which is awarded for successful completion of the experiences and the Career-Ready Assessment

THE REALSKILL INSTITUTE

The first four *Advanced Experiences* are embedded in select ORI courses.

From there, a subset of students will complete the remaining two *Advanced Experiences* which are housed in Career Services.

The goal is for those students to earn the SkillsUSA *Career Essentials Credential*.

THE IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Year 1
Fall 2018

- Pilot the SkillsUSA *Advanced Experiences* in four ORI 101 classes.
- 20% of those ORI 101 students will participate in the last two experiences.
- 60% of participating students will earn the SkillsUSA *Career Essentials Credential*.

Year 2
Fall 2019

- Implement the *Advanced Experiences* in ten ORI 101 classes.
- 33% of those ORI 101 students will participate in the last two experiences.
- 60% of participating students will earn the SkillsUSA *Career Essentials Credential*.

Year 3
Fall 2020

- Implement the *Advanced Experiences* in twenty ORI 101 classes.
- 33% of those ORI 101 students will participate in the last two experiences.
- 64% of participating students will earn the SkillsUSA *Career Essentials Credential*.

Year 4
Fall 2021

- Implement the *Advanced Experiences* in twenty ORI 101 classes.
- 33% of those ORI 101 students will participate in the last two experiences.
- 70% of participating students will earn the SkillsUSA *Career Essentials Credential*.

Year 5
Fall 2022

- Implement the *Advanced Experiences* in twenty ORI 101 classes.
- 33% of those ORI 101 students will participate in the last two experiences.
- 75% of participating students will earn the SkillsUSA *Career Essentials Credential*.