Executive Summary

The University of Kentucky's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Transdisciplinary Educational approaches to advance Kentucky (TEK) transforms student learning by engaging students in real-world, solution-focused work with the support of academic and workforce experts. This hands-on initiative focuses on transdisciplinary methods and the employability skills needed to take a team-based approach with multiple experts to solve critical problems.

GOALS

Understanding that solving 21st century problems requires **collaboration across disciplines**, UK seeks to create a culture of transdisciplinary curricular approaches. This approach is aligned with UK's mission to advance Kentucky and utilizes the strengths of an integrated, comprehensive campus with 17 colleges (7 related to healthcare), a library and graduate school. The goals of TEK are structured around students **learning essential workforce skills**, **leveraging expertise**, and **linking to Kentucky's workforce needs**. The goals of TEK are as follows:

LEARN	Provide opportunities for students to learn essential workforce skills in newly created and refreshed courses
LEVERAGE	Leverage campuswide and employer expertise to expand the use of transdisciplinary approaches in undergraduate classes across the University
LINK	Link the transdisciplinary skills students are learning to Kentucky workforce needs

These goals will broaden the university's current opportunities and build upon existing support units to engage students in meaningful work that impacts Kentucky and beyond. In turn, students will be better prepared for the workforce and leading lives of meaning and purpose as students and later as professionals and as citizens.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will obtain transferable skills that are essential for success in the modern workforce. TEK focuses on outcomes which enable students to (1) **identify multiple viewpoints** through an introduction to transdisciplinary approaches, (2) **communicate** their ideas through team-based real-world experiences, (3) **reflect** on their processes and growth, and (4) **collaborate within teams** of students, community partners, and faculty to create and disseminate products that address critical Kentucky issues. Direct and indirect assessments will be used in all TEK activities to ensure students' success and to evaluate and modify experiences for students.

CREATING TRANSDISCIPLINARY EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS

During their first semester, students will have the opportunity to participate in a first-year experience that includes an introduction to transdisciplinary approaches. Students will be exposed to the concept of **transdisciplinary team approaches to problem-solving** and will learn about **transdisciplinary opportunities available across their college experience**.

Through an innovative **TEK Faculty Fellows program** that **incorporates transdisciplinary faculty learning communities**, faculty will work in two tracks to (1) **create new high-impact transdisciplinary TEK courses** (DISCOVER and ENGAGE) that utilize multidisciplinary teams of academic and workforce experts who actively work together to use shared knowledge and expertise to address critical problems in our community and world and (2) **refresh pedagogical approaches in existing courses** to target essential employability skills.

Through the work of the TEK Faculty Fellows, TEK will expand the opportunities for students to engage in transdisciplinary work important to the community, while also refining faculty expertise around transdisciplinary teaching and learning.

TEK has the University of Kentucky coming together to engage in real-world, solution-focused work to solve 21st century problems.

Transdisciplinary Educational approaches to advance Kentucky (TEK)

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