EEQ CERT Categoties

The QA Commons utilizes five criteria that represent a comprehensive and integrated framework for employability.

ESSENTIAL
EMPLOYABILITY
QUALITIES

EEQ CERT

CERTIFICATION

1 EEQ Graduate Preparation

All programs are required by accreditors to have student learning outcomes (SLOs). The QA Commons has found that rarely are those SLOs connected to essential employability skills and qualities, especially built around work-based settings. One of the greatest contributions that EEQ CERT provides is that it focuses programs on assuring that students have minimum proficiency in employability skills.

2 Career Support Services

Data overwhelmingly supports students' need for career information and guidance. However, very few programs provide this guidance at the front end of program participation or track/support career services. A study by the Gallup Organization showed that only 17% of those who used career services found it helpful. There needs to be a transformation of the provision of career services.

3 Employer Engagement

The QA Commons has found that, even when advisory boards exist within programs, employers are rarely deeply engaged in the design and assessment of curriculum to reflect the dynamic changes occurring in the workforce. Nor are employers typically engaged in the assessment of student performance.

4 Student & Alumni Engagement

Alumni are generally not adequately engaged to reflect on the preparation they received and the ways the program might be improved. Students need to be involved in how the program will prepare them for the workplace beyond the traditional end of course assessment.

5 Public Information

Very little program specific information on the likelihood of completion, average loan, types of careers graduates enter, or salaries is available to the public. This is the type of information that would enable students to be better informed as they select and enter a college or university program.