

2003-2004
Quality Enhancement Program Summary
Office of Institutional Research,
Planning and Effectiveness



Department: Social Work **Award Amount:** \$17,500 **Award Recipient:** Dr. Martin Tracy

Project Focus:

The project will assess the impact of new workshops designed specifically to yield improvements in scholarly writing of doctoral students.

Assessment Method:

The department experienced difficulty in measuring the success of their efforts to improve students' professional writing. The department planned to independently collect information about their graduate students' productivity, however, a more formal assessment tool will be necessary to accurately measure student learning outcomes.

Results as of Fall 2004, provided by Dr. David Royse:

The purpose of this project was to assist doctoral students in polishing and refining their professional writing skills so that they could be more successful in publishing and writing grant proposals. Developing writing skills is very much like building an infrastructure within a community. As some students become successful, they can become mentors and guides for other students – creating a “highway of information” for others. Sometimes it is a slow process, though, and results are not immediately discernible. Project activities to date include:

- **Grant Writing Workshop.** Martha Dore, a faculty member from New York University with extensive grant writing experience conducted a workshop for graduate students.
- **Writing Consultation.** Local author and journalist Neil Chethik evaluated graduate students' manuscripts and gave them suggestions to improve their writing.

- **Writing for Professional Journals Workshop.** Deborah Valentine, editor of the *Journal of Education for Social Work* and Dean of the School of Social Work at Colorado State University, conducted a one-day journal writing workshop. Several students submitted manuscripts which Dr. Valentine read and critiqued.

Our graduate students, particularly the doctoral students, are developing writing skills and strengths. We believe that it will be important to continue to stress publication in order to increase the visibility of the College of Social Work and the University of Kentucky.

Future Plans:

The College is planning to host another professional writing seminar in the late spring of 2005. One of two former journal editors will be invited to read students' manuscripts and conduct a one-day workshop.