



**UHD’s QEP Topic:** *Academic Achievement through Community Engagement (A+CE)*

**Thesis:** *Prepare students to think critically about community issues.*

**Criteria:** Curricular, first two years for FTIC (first time in college) students

Definitions:

**A. Critical Thinking** (one of the learning outcomes of Texas Common Core)

*The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) defines critical thinking as creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.*

**B. Community Engagement**

*The Carnegie Foundation defines community engagement as “collaboration between institutions of higher education and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.” Within the scope of this QEP, community engagement will also encompass both the identification and analysis of community issues.*

**Student Motivation**

- A. Become an ‘Engaged Scholar’ by taking four A+CE courses in the first two years, and maintaining an overall GPA of 2.5 with a maximum of one ‘C’ in the A+CE courses.
- B. Get A+CE course designations on transcript.
- C. Develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in critical thinking while engaging in community issues.

