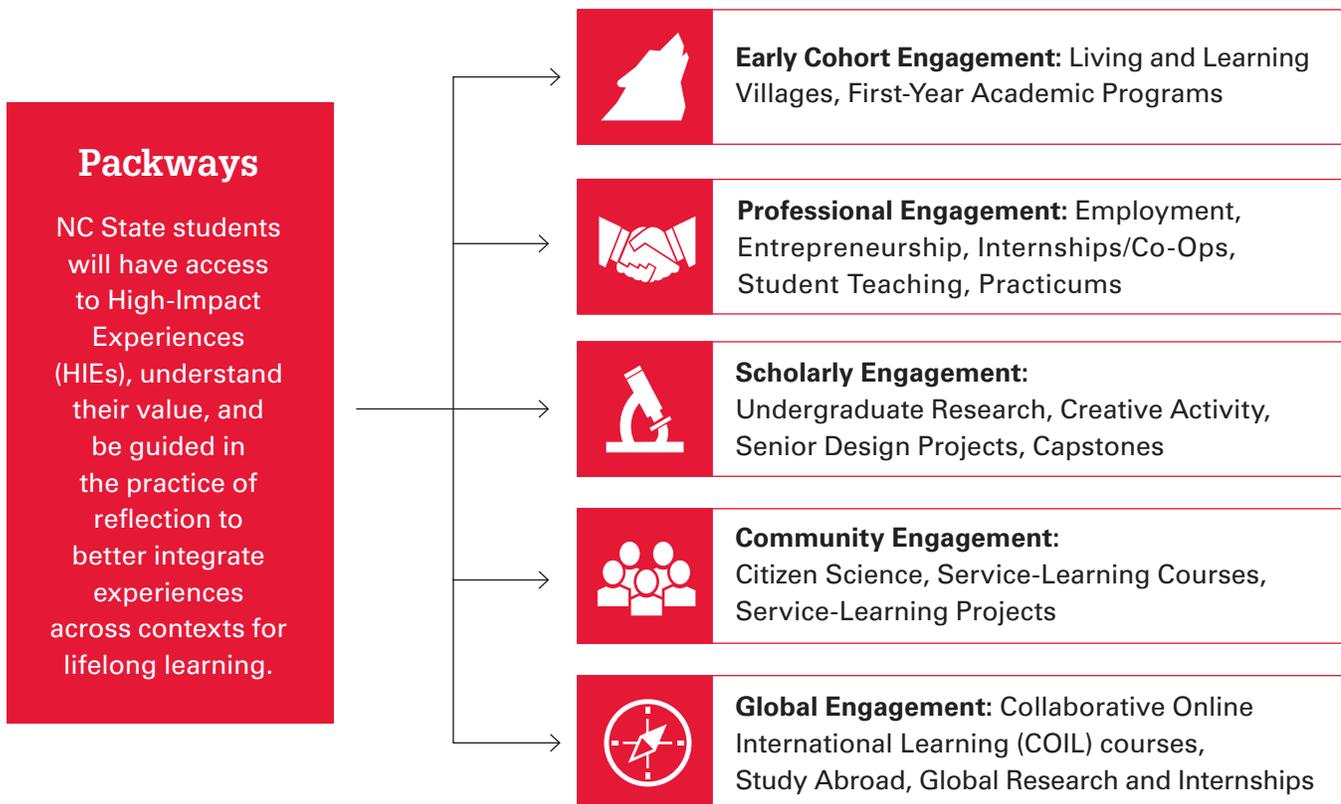


# Quality Enhancement Plan

## Packways: Learning By Doing

A Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) is part of our SACSCOC re-accreditation process. Selected from several student success proposals, campus-wide collaborators developed “Packways: Learning By Doing,” our current NC State QEP (2024-2029). **Packways is a means of informing and involving more students in success opportunities we call high impact experiences (HIEs).** Participation in HIEs has a proven impact on students’ critical thinking, career readiness, rate of engagement and self-actualization. Packways also brings together a community of practice that focuses on HIEs that prepare NC State students to serve North Carolina, the nation and the world.



## What makes an experience ‘high impact’?

HIEs at NC State are immersive and sustained opportunities for students to deepen and apply knowledge in and beyond the classroom. HIEs empower NC State students, in collaboration with mentors and/or one another, to make and communicate connections across their collegiate experience, to learn and grow through structured critical reflection and to better assess and integrate goals into their collegiate experience. By equipping students with tools for lifelong learning, HIEs prepare our students to thrive in a dynamic, diverse, complex world.



## How does Packways relate to NC State's Strategic Plan, Wolfpack 2030?

Goal 1, "Empower students for a lifetime of success and impact," calls for "expanding the number of high-impact practices. These experiences are shown to increase student engagement, reduce time to degree completion and increase graduation rates. From internships to learning communities to research projects, our students will leave the university equipped with more than just a diploma; they'll also have a compelling and well-rounded resume."



For more information or to get involved, visit [go.ncsu.edu/packways\\_qep](https://go.ncsu.edu/packways_qep)



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## What are the Goals of Packways?

- > Identify and dismantle barriers to student engagement in HIEs.
- > Increase awareness early in academic career of the value(s) of HIEs and means to access them via a comprehensive student-focused communication plan.
- > Curate and implement professional development for faculty, staff and advisors to ensure consistent high quality in HIEs that center the practice of critical reflection so students may better articulate skills to themselves and stakeholders.

## How Can Packways Help Me?

- > **Students:** Students will learn about HIEs from consistent and peer-designed messaging. Advisors, faculty and staff will aid in planning for participation. Honing reflection skills will allow the integration of learning with personal and professional goals.
- > **Faculty:** Faculty may be mentoring or teaching a HIE (1st year seminar, service learning course, research course, capstone) and not even know it. Packways' workshop series will help integrate reflection and mentoring practices. Packways funds can help improve or start a new HIE.
- > **Staff/Advisor:** Staff and advisors will participate in workshops to integrate HIEs into student advising, improve the quality of and access to the HIEs you oversee.
- > **Administrator:** HIEs provide students sought after skills such as problem solving, collaboration and communication. These marketable skills enhance both the NC State brand and our ability to recruit. They also contribute to a sense of belonging, helping with retention and student anxiety.

## Packways is a Success When:

- > We know how many NC State students participate in HIEs, and those numbers are higher than the initial 2024-25 baseline established, especially amongst underrepresented groups.
- > Assessment data confirms that more students are accessing HIEs and are experiencing a sense of belonging through them, and are integrating the skills gained into careers.
- > Students graduate with greater confidence in their ability to reflect, solve problems, communicate, lead, and work collaboratively, and feel well prepared for career and life.
- > We create a HIE community of practice to maintain and grow our culture of HIEs at NC State and HIE faculty, mentors and campus advisors report deepened understanding and implementation of practices in their teaching, programming and advising.