Fully Embedded Assessment Model: Discovering the Benefits and Innovations



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Sheryl Hess, PhD Stacy Sculthorp, PhD Everybody believes in innovation until they see it. Then they think, 'Oh, no; that'll

never work. It's too different.'

Nolan Bushnell



Agenda

- Introductions and Overview
- Foundation of Assessment at Capella
 - Assessment triangle
- Importance of Quality Assurance:
 - Quality Matters: The Essential Standards
- Fully Embedded Assessment Model (FEAM)
 - Foundation, Value, Process
 - Exercise
- Benefits
- Innovations
- Exploration



Learning Objectives

- 1. Articulate the importance of alignment in educational assessment.
- 2. Describe the methods used to implement a Fully Embedded Assessment Model.
- 3. Apply the concepts of a Fully Embedded Assessment Model to a course evaluation for Quality Matters.
- 4. Discuss the impact of a Fully Embedded Assessment Model on new initiatives.
- 5. Propose an initiative or process that draws on the concepts of a Fully Embedded Assessment Model.



The Assessment Triangle



Foundation: The Assessment Triangle

From Knowing What Students Know: The Science and Design of Educational Assessment (National Research Council, 2001)





Importance of Quality Assurance in Assessment



Quality Assurance and QM Essential Standards

- QM Essential Standards
 - Checkpoint for quality assurance
 - Reinforces sound instructional design and assessment development
 - Standards
 - **2.1**: The course learning objectives describe outcomes that are measurable
 - **2.2**: The module/unit learning objectives describe outcomes that are measurable and consistent with course level objectives
 - **3.1**: The types of assessments stated to measure the stated learning objectives are consistent with course activities and resources
 - **3.3**: Specific and descriptive criteria are provided for the evaluation of students' work and participation and are tied to the course grading policy



Quality Assurance and QM Essential Standards (continued)

- Build in quality checks ensure consistency among courses
 - Include design elements that create an environment to facilitate learning
 - Unit introductions •
 - Studies: readings, media
 - Discussions
 - Assignments
- Confirm alignment between the scoring guide criteria and course competencies
 - Ensure valid measurement
 - Deliberate alignment provides valid opportunities for learners to demonstrate competencies



Fully Embedded Assessment Model



Foundation

- FEAM
- Developed to measure progress toward demonstrating learning outcomes throughout a program
- Based on assignments and scoring guide criteria
- Requirements:
 - Assignments provide opportunity to demonstrate competency
 - Scoring guide criteria:
 - Align to one course competency
 - Define competency demonstration in professional setting



Foundation (continued)

- Goal
 - Document alignment relationships between course competencies and scoring guide criteria
 - Integrity of alignment supports reporting related to learner achievement of outcomes
- "Fully Embedded" = direct alignment
 - Program objectives
 - Course competencies
 - Assessment criteria
- Results reported as achievement of course competencies



Value

- Alignment ensures educational excellence
- Validate assessment data
- Implement continuous quality improvement
- Identify performance issues for individual learners
- Provide personalized learning
- Provide near-real time reporting to multiple stakeholders



Value (continued)

- Learner success
 - Review detailed evaluation criteria in advance
 - Gain a clear understanding of expectation for success
 - View progress towards competency acquisition
 - Identify and address needed improvement
 - Gain confidence in ability to attain their learning and career goals



FEAM Process





Applying the FEAM Concepts



Applying FEAM concepts, referencing Quality Matters

Using FEAM concepts and referencing applicable QM Essential Standards:

- Align each scoring guide criterion to a course competency
- Mark your judgments in the competency column
- Note additional feedback on the scoring guide

QM Essential Standards:

- **2.1**: The course learning objectives describe outcomes that are measurable
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Benefits and Innovations



Benefits: Alignment and Reporting

- Alignment to external standards
- Reporting capabilities
- Assessment system cycle



Benefits: Alignment to External Standards

- Alignment of scoring guide criteria and external standards
 - MNBOT (Minnesota Board of Teaching)
 - CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation)
- Alignment of external standards and signature assessments
 - CAEP
 - CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs)



Benefits: Reporting Capabilities

PFU 6.1

Course	Assignment	Criterion Text	Ν	Non-Performance	Basic	Proficient	Distinguished
COUN5215	u04a1	Outlines the extent to which personal values, emotions, and biases will influence ethical decisions.	54	0	9.26	20.37	70.37
	u10a1	Demonstrates commitment to ethical professional practice through self-reflection, appropriate interpersonal communication, and self-awareness when solving ethical dilemmas.	48	0	4.17	18.75	77.08
COUN5334	u02a1	Describes how the topic will assist in analyzing personal cultural competency.	53	9.43	0	0	90.57
	u10a1	Analyzes the influence of culture on attributes, values, perceptions, human behavior, and interpersonal relations to the selected population.	49	0	2.04	18.37	79.59
		Critically evaluates theories, methods, and research in cross-cultural awareness related to the selected population.	49	0	6.12	16.33	77.55
		Identifies and analyzes multicultural counseling and social justice advocacy competencies that can be used to improve interaction with selected population in a counseling setting.	49	0	4.08	36.73	59.18



Benefits: Assessment System Cycle





Innovations

- Course quality assurance system
- Competency map
- FlexPath



Innovations: Course Quality Assurance System

- External standard coverage
 - Addressed or assessed per expectations of accrediting bodies
- Competency coverage (formative)
 - Competencies formatively assessed with at least 2 aligned criteria (QM2&3)
- Competency coverage (summative)
 - Competencies summatively assessed at least once (QM3)
- Assessment description alignment
 - Grading criteria align with assessment description (QM3)
- Scoring guide criteria usage
 - Criteria are not compound, complex, vague, assessment-specific, unaligned (FEAM & QM3)
- Performance language leveled
 - Criteria are build toward expected level of performance (QM3)



Innovations: Competency Map





Innovations: FlexPath

Capella University	đ Guide	LOG OUT	SEARCH		٩
HOME MY CAPELLA	FACULTY THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY	LEARNING RESOURCES	SUPPORT SERVICES	COMMUNITY	
FlexPath FlexPath Home How FlexPath Works FlexPath Support Team Discussions	FLEEXPATH Welcome to a new way to learn Introducing FlexPath—an innovative format that allows you to complete courses on your own schedule—without weekly discussions or due dates— allowing you to save money and finish your degree sooner. What is FlexPath? FlexPath uses self-paced courses that allow you on your own schedule. The degree outcomes a traditional courses but with FlexPath, how you You'll build the career-enhancing skills that em efficient, personalized way. How Does FlexPath Work? With FlexPath, you will earn your degree by con assessments in each required course, but will connect with other learners in the discussion b required to participate in discussions, but will connect with other learners in the discussion b resources you choose, including textbooks, each articles, and work experiences. Read more about How FlexPath work Degree Options Competency-based Learning	the the same as Capella's in the same as Capella's intervention of the	FlexPath Come Visit the FlexPath di contact your FlexPath	munity	



Exploration



Exploration and Ideas

- Discuss how you can use presentation information to:
 - Benefit your institution or organization
 - Improve an existing process
 - Create a new process
 - Springboard a quality assurance project
 - Facilitate further discussion in your institution
- Regroup and discuss



Thank you!

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