

FY09-10 Request for Research Proposals (RFP)

***Goal:** To document impact of the Quality Matters rubric, training, or peer review process on the teaching-learning process and on student learning.*

Opportunity

Quality Matters (www.qualitymatters.org) is pleased to announce the availability of small grants to fund action-based research projects that document the impact of the QM rubric, training, or peer review process on student learning outcomes. Quality Matters (QM) has generated widespread interest and received national recognition for its faculty-centered, peer-based approach to quality assurance and continuous improvement in online education. Originating from a FIPSE grant, Quality Matters is now a self-supporting organization sponsored by MarylandOnline (www.marylandonline.org)

Benefits

Benefits for completing a Quality Matters (QM) Research project:

- Registration as a presenter at the 2010 Quality Matters conference
- Collaborative access to expertise of the QM Academic Advisory Committee comprised of nationally recognized distance education practitioners and researchers
- Professional/academic recognition
- National recognition provided on Quality Matters website
- Citation recognition on all Quality Matters related presentations
- Inform Quality Matters' monitoring of impact on student learning
- Inform Quality Matters next rubric version
- Inform Quality Matters training and process improvement efforts

Eligibility

Proposals are encouraged from faculty, instructional designers, administrators, graduate students, and others involved in higher education or K-12 online distance education.

Funding Awards

Typical grant awards will be about \$4,000-\$5,000; higher proposals will be considered. Funding of four to five projects is anticipated. The Selection Committee, comprised of representatives from the Quality Matters Research Advisory and Academic Advising Councils, will determine the final number of grants and funds awarded. Commitment letters for funding will be disseminated on May 29, 2009. Funds will be paid out over the duration of the project and can be paid to individuals or institutions. Final reports must document how funds were actually spent. Renewed funding is not implied or guaranteed, however might be possible dependent on future Quality Matters resources.

Research Projects Example

The concept is open as to how a research project can demonstrate the impact of the Quality Matters (QM) rubric, training, or peer review process on student learning. Ideas include:

- Measure impact of QM standards on the teaching-learning process
- Measure student performance in a course before and after a QM review
- Measure student performance when two or more standards are applied to course design
- Measure student performance after alignment features are strengthened as related to rubric

These are suggestions only. Projects may focus on the entire rubric or specific standards. Projects might connect QM training or the QM process to improved the teaching-learning process student learning.

Request for Research Proposals

Application Process

Submit application form and materials by April 30, 2009. Proposals will be reviewed by the Selection Committee consisting of representatives from the Quality Matters Research Advisory and Academic Advisory Committees. Relative point values for a total of 100 points (including 10 points for the budget) will be awarded for the following sections.

Required materials (Incomplete proposals will not be considered.)

1. Application Form: One page form included in this document. Submission will be done electronically.
2. Project Narrative: No more than three (3) pages to include:
 - a. Statement of Problem – Specify how the use of the QM rubric, training, and/or peer review process will impact student learning outcomes in an online course/s. The QM rubric, training, and process is extensive. Projects can focus on individual components of the QM process or rubric. **(25 points)**
 - b. Data Collection Methods: Include pre-and post-assessment measures. Mid-point assessment is optional. Data can be statistical or anecdotal, but must exhibit rigor. Collection methods can include, but are not limited to: surveys/evaluations, journals/blogs, student voice, student success indicators (for example, retention, grades). **(25 points)**
 - c. Audience/Discipline – Identify the discipline and audience to be impacted by the project outcomes. **(5 points)**
 - d. Project Personnel – List the key personnel involved in the project tasks. Résumé/CV required only for Project Leader. **(5 points)**
 - e. How findings will be reported – At a minimum, a written report of the findings must be submitted. Other materials could include material samples, PowerPoint presentation file, etc. **(10 points)**
 - f. Replication of project – Indicate how the project and funds will be useful to others. Successful project will be one that can be adapted or duplicated by other institutions and/or will impact a wide audience. **(10 points)**
 - g. Timeline – Provide a timeline of proposed project activities. Projects must be completed by May 31, 2010. Final reports due by June 30, 2010. **(10 points)**
3. Resume/CV for Project Leader: Please submit only relevant material, no more than 5 pages.
4. Budget: Budget can include items such as faculty time, resources, and materials. A sample template included in this document. Estimated funds available will be \$4,000 per project, although higher proposals will be considered. Indicate any matching or in-kind contributions by an institution. Final reports must document how funds were actually spent. **(10 points)**

April 30, 2009	Proposals due
May 29, 2009	Award Notification sent with Confirmation Memo of Understanding
June 19, 2009	Signed Memo of Understanding due
July 1, 2009	Monies available for awarded projects
May 31, 2010	Projects to be completed
June 30, 2010	Final reports due

Questions: Contact Kay Shattuck, Director of Research, Quality Matters, shattuck@qualitymatters.org, 717-387-2741 (mobile) or kay.shattuck (SKYPE).

APPLICATION FORM

Project Leader	
Job Title	
Institution	
Surface Mailing Address	
Phone Contact	
Fax Contact	
Email	

Project Title:

Total Budget: \$ _____ **QM Funding requested** \$ _____

Project Abstract (100 words max)

Required Items: Successful proposals must include all items:

- Application Form**
- Project Narrative. Up to three (3) pages to include:**
 - Statement of Problem**
 - Data Collection Methods**
 - Audience/Discipline**
 - Project Personnel**
 - How findings will be reported**
 - Replication of project**
 - Timeline**
- Budget**
- Project Leader Resume/CV (No more than 5 pages)**

Submit application form and materials (project narrative, budget, and leader resume/CV electronically via the web form found here:

<http://www.qualitymatters.org/rfp/rfp.htm>

by Thursday, April 30, 2009

You will be given the opportunity to upload a file with your materials once you complete the web form application.

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Budget Sample Template

Items in this template are examples only. Please list all relevant budget items for proposed project and indicate how much, if any, is matched or provided by an institution.

Budget Item	Requested	Institution Match/Support
Salaries/Wages	\$	\$
Stipends/Consultants	\$	\$
Travel/Mileage	\$	\$
Materials/Supplies	\$	\$
Other	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$