The “Big Three”

Raising questions. Pursuing answers. Curating and categorizing. That’s how we support the QM system.

Learning principle that continues to drive Quality Matters in the need for QM Standards to reflect current research on effective learning. The initial standards and subsequent modifications have been based on the insights of teams of experienced online instructors and instructional designers and on the best practices standards promulgated by accrediting bodies and national and international organizations. In addition, the QM Standards have been examined for consistency with the conclusions of the educational research literature regarding factors that increase learning and engagement and that improve learner interaction rates.

Research is focused on creating and supporting research studies related to the impact and use of the Quality Matters model. Literature reviews to inform members of the Rubric Committee in their development.

Library, Toolkit, Resources

QM RESEARCH LIBRARY
Search our curated selection of literature bearing a relationship to the QM Standards by either keyword or the QM Standard number. References on teaching competencies can be found in the Online Instructor and Teaching Competencies Literature Review.

RESEARCH TOOLKIT
Get guidance on developing a research question that will make for a solid study and facilitate attaining information significant to online learning stakeholders.

QM-RELATED RESEARCH RESOURCES
See a curated list of studies and publications related to the primary categories of QM Research. Need help with your search? Contact QM Research with your questions.
The Research Library

- The research that supports the QM Rubric
- Add'l related research
- Search by Standard
- Search by Keyword
- Contribute and help it grow!

The Research Toolkit

How to Conduct QM Research

The QM Research toolkit is designed to guide anyone interested in doing research on the impact of Quality Matters. The steps move through the process of conducting a research project, giving an explanation for each step along with examples. The toolkit begins with information on developing a QM-focused research question that will be the basis of the project.

Who should be conducting research related to QM?
This research toolkit is designed for new researchers, as well as experienced researchers who are unfamiliar with the Quality Matters working principles, processes, and procedures.

Set yourself up for success
Designing a research study on the impact of Quality Matters requires awareness, comprehension, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of a scholarly online/distance education knowledge base, as well as a background in the principles and application of the QM process within a system of quality assurance. These reflective processes will better prepare the researcher in making judgments for the development of a study that can inform and continuously improve the QM knowledge base, which, in turn, will improve online/distance education through research and practice.

Interested in learning more about QM-focused research?

Contact Sabrina Burch, Manager of Research and Development, or Bethany Simonich, Director of Research and Innovation.

Step 1: [Develop your research question] What do you want to know?
The Research Toolkit

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Interested in learning more about QM-focused research?
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Online Research Workshop

The ABCs of Online Learning Research

Learn how to get started doing research on online learning in this active, applied three-week online workshop. Using QM and the reference, this workshop covers the steps necessary for developing a quality research study related to online learning.

Course Length: Three weeks
Delivery Mode: Online (Asynchronous)
Instruction: Facilitated
Fee with Membership: $200.00
Fee: $300.00

In this workshop, participants are asked to come with a general idea/topic that they’d like to research. Throughout the course of the workshop, they will grow and refine that idea. Whether you’re new to researching online learning or an experienced researcher, the learning activities in this workshop, along with the feedback and guidance of your instructor, will ensure you avoid some of the pitfalls in online learning research and develop a quality research project to meet stakeholder needs.

Recommended For
Faculty, teachers, librarians, instructional designers, administrators, adjunct instructors, or anyone interested in conducting research to improve online education.

Learning Objectives
1. Describe the foundational concepts of Quality Matters and the information and resources for QM-focused research.
2. Create an appropriate research question based on current interests/needs, and refine your question based on a brief literature review.
3. Identify and define the variables in your study, and account for the unique barriers and considerations in online learning research by addressing confounding variables.
4. Draft a research study design with a doable methodology for data collection and analysis.
5. Contribute articles, finding, and ideas to online learning research.
Curated QM-focused Resources

Curated Resources

The term “QM Research” relates to several different types of research. There is research that supports the QM Rubric and process, research that discusses its use, and research that focuses on its impact.

Recent Literature Reviews

K-12

- 2019 K-12 Dissertation Literature Review Summary
- 2019 K-12 Article Literature Review Summary
- 2018 Literature Review for revising the National Standards for Quality Online Courses
- 2018 Literature Review for revising the National Standards for Quality Online Teaching
- 2018 Literature Review for revising the National Standards for Quality Online Programs
- Review of K-12 Online and Blended Education Research Literature

Higher Education

- 2019 Higher Education Literature Review Summary
- Searchable QM Research Library Incorporating references prepared for all editions of the Higher Education Rubric that support and inform it

Teaching

- Online Instructor and Teaching Competencies Literature Review
- Online Instructor and Teaching Competencies: Further Analysis of the 2016 Literature Review for Quality Matters

QM Research Grant Projects

Since 2006, QM has funded small research grants on the impact of QM. We are currently taking a hiatus from accepting proposals. Here is a list of Research Projects by year:

2016
- The Impact of Quality Matters Professional Development on Teaching Across Delivery Formats

2014
- A Study of the Relationship Between Quality Matters General Standard 5, Level of Interaction, and Academic Performance Online

2013
- Analyzing Predictors of Faculty Behavior to Engage in Peer Review
- Effect of Student Readiness on Student Success in Online Courses
- Measuring Online Course Design: A Comparative Analysis
- Measuring the Impact of Student Engagement in the Application of Quality Matters Standards on Blended Course Design

QM Research Landing page

Raising questions. Pursuing answers. Curating and categorizing. That’s how we support the QM system.

A founding principle that continues to drive Quality Matters is the need for QM Standards to reflect current academic research on effective learning. The initial standards and subsequent modifications have been based on the insights of teams of experienced online instructors and instructional designers and on the best practices standards promulgated by accrediting bodies and national and international organizations. In addition, the QM Standards have been examined for consistency with the conclusions of the educational research literature regarding factors that increase learning and engagement and that improve learner retention rates.

QM Research is focused on curating and supporting research studies related to the impact and use of the Quality Matters model. Literature reviews to inform members of the Rubric Committees in their effort to assure that the Rubrics remains current with the research are also

QM-Focused Research Highlights

QM Digital Accessibility White Paper Series

This white paper series explores QM member institutions’ improvements in accessibility policies and processes and course design and development tools over a 10-year period, as well as the professional development that would help them achieve accessibility for all students.

Changing Landscape of Online Learning (CHLOE) Reports

This multi-year study by QM and Edvendures fills an important gap in the research on online learning management trends. Download the latest report — CHLOE 5: The Pivot to Remote Teaching in Online 2020 and Its Impact.
Research Colleagues

QM Research Colleagues

Quality Matters Research Colleagues play a leading role in keeping the Rubric current. These dedicated volunteers work with QM Research staff to foster studies that advance the knowledge of QM’s impact on learner success. Their activities include tracing, documenting, and analyzing scholarly research that informs the continuing reflection and improvement of the QM Standards. They also discuss, advise on and support the QM research agenda.

Current QM Research Colleagues

Barbara W. Altman, Ph.D., Texas A&M University - Central Texas (since 2016)

Deborah Anne Banker, Ed.D., Tarleton State University (since 2014)

Help Me...

- See publications that QM Research Colleagues have authored
- See recommended readings on topics important to educators

Rounding out the Research pg.

Frequently Requested Resources

- Accessibility Policy Creation Guidelines
- How to Reference & Use QM in Research
- Streamlining Accreditation Preparation with Program Review

Recent Articles

- Evaluating Online Course Quality: A Study on Implementation of Course Quality Standards
- Student Perceptions of the Impact of Quality Matters-Certified Online Courses on Their Learning and Engagement
- Class Size in Online Courses: What the Research Says
- Video Length in Online Courses: What the Research Says
FAQs for All Your Questions

About QM
1. Where can I find information on QM’s FIPSE grant?
2. What are some resources for promoting QM quality assurance to others?
3. What are the underlying principles of Quality Matters?
4. What organizations are members of Quality Matters?
5. What were the key milestones in developing the original QM Rubric?

Attending QM Conferences
1. What are the registration fees for QM Conferences?
2. How can I show how much I love QM Conferences?
3. How does attending a QM Conference help my organization?
ROC Landing Page

2021 QM Research Online Conference
Active/Applied Research on Online Learning and Quality Assurance

This conference is focused on research-supported best practices and takeaways that attendees can use. A number of experts from the QM community will present on Active/Applied Research on Online Learning. Each session will provide attendees with one or more application-based takeaways.

Concurrent Sessions
Attendees can choose one session from each time slot. Secure Zoom links will be emailed to registrants. Please register using the session name below to see presenter and description information.

1:40 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern

Thank you for joining us today!

research@qualitymatters.org