

The Impact of Quality Matters Standards on Student Evaluations of College Courses

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University of Providence

University of Providence Quality Matters Team Members

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University of Providence

- Private, Catholic-based four-year liberal arts university
- Located in Great Falls, Montana
- 30 Programs, concentrations, and certificate programs both oncampus or online
- School of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- School of Health Professions
- 14:1 Average Student to Faculty ratio



Learning Outcomes

- 1. Discuss preliminary research findings
- Explore your own specific research on QM Standards
- 3. Explore opportunities for future collaborative research



Why we chose to implement QM Standards

- University of Providence has offered distance learning courses since 1979
- In 2007, the University began offering online courses targeting employees of the large integrated healthcare system to which we belong
- Over the last five years we had significant growth in the number and variety of online courses
- To meet the healthcare system's needs for adult learning options, the faculty wanted to ensure consistent standards of quality as we increase the number of online programs and courses



Student Expectations

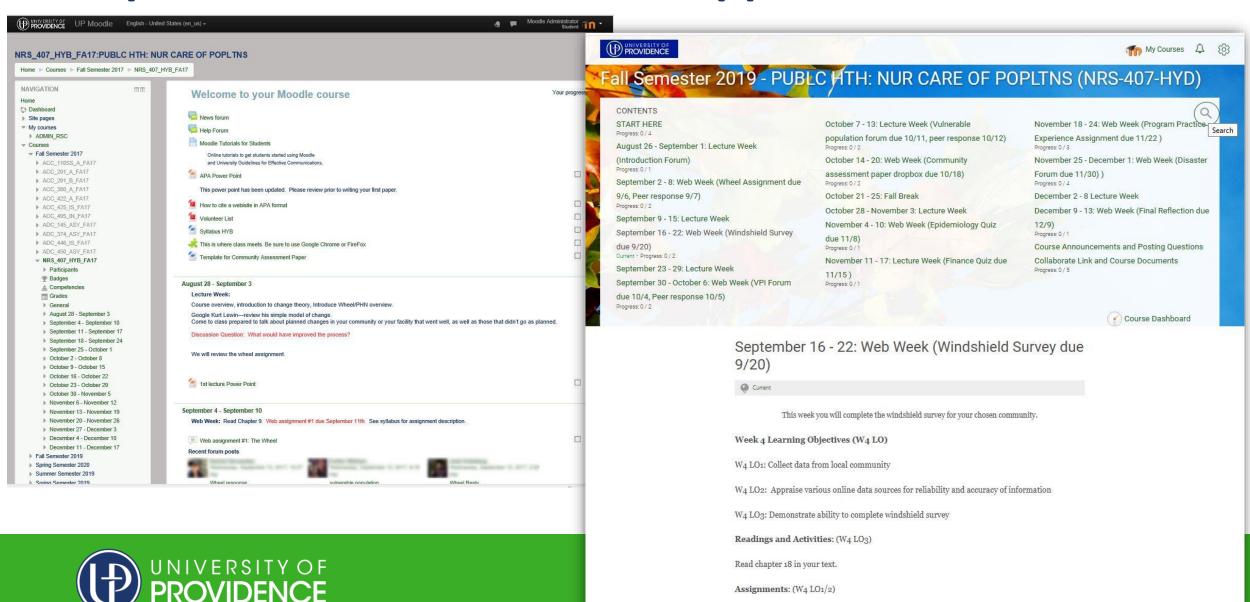
- Student expectations for ease of use across all devices, e.g. phones versus a computer
- What if we did not have QM Standards and SNAP – where we would be?
- We did not want to lose quality in our course designs as we scale up to meet increasing student expectations



Source: https://help.blackboard.com/Blackboard_Open_LMS



Comparison of Online Course Appearance



Review of Literature

Literature Review: Course Design and Student Satisfaction

- Course design can *meet and increase* characteristics of successful online behaviors (Naveh, Tubin, & Pliskin, 2010; Kauffman, 2015)
- Success breeds satisfaction and increases *student perception* of the achievable (Arabie, 2016; Kauffman, 2015)



Course Surveys as a Measurement of Student Satisfaction: Be Careful of the Author and Parameters

- Surveys = *primary tool* (Arabie, 2016; Green, Inan, & Denton, 2012; Kauffman, 2015; Martin & Bolliger, 2018; Naveh, Tubin, & Pliskin, 2010)
- Author(s)? Without questions that are on-point, a general lack of clarity lives in the results (Arabie, 2016)
- The populations surveyed and the *skewing of results* (Arabie, 2016; Humber, 2018; Islam & Azad, 2015; Martin & Bolliger, 2018)
- Window of time and failing to capture the change in attitude and larger scope (Arabie, 2016; Humber, 2018; Islam & Azad, 2015)



Instructors as Public Opinion Leaders: Moving a Culture to Embracing Course Design

- Student and instructor *perceptions* of their LMS (Islam & Azad, 2015)
- How the LMS fit their learning style (Islam & Azad, 2015)
- How the LMS fit their teaching style (Islam & Azad, 2015)
- Instructor lack of understanding of the LMS tools . . . decreased satisfaction (Arabie, 2016; Humber, 2018; Martin & Bolliger, 2018)

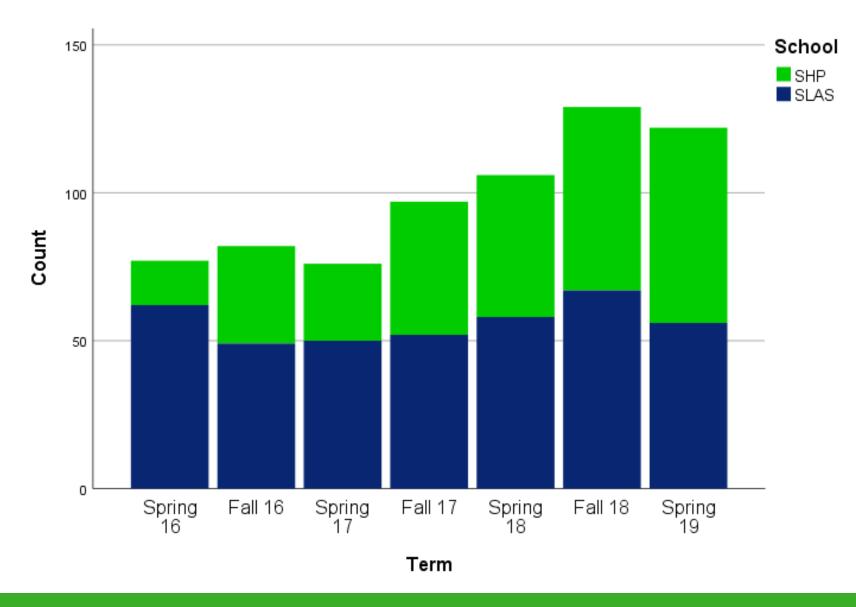


It's Not Enough to Place the Help-Resources in the Course: Instructor as Propagator

- One of the biggest turn-offs . . . *lack of usability* (Green, Inan, & Denton, 2012; Humber, 2018)
- The higher the presence of technical assistance, the more student satisfaction (Green, Inan, & Denton, 2012; Humber, 2018)
- Instructor awareness of Student Help-Resources . . . *first-point-of-contact*.

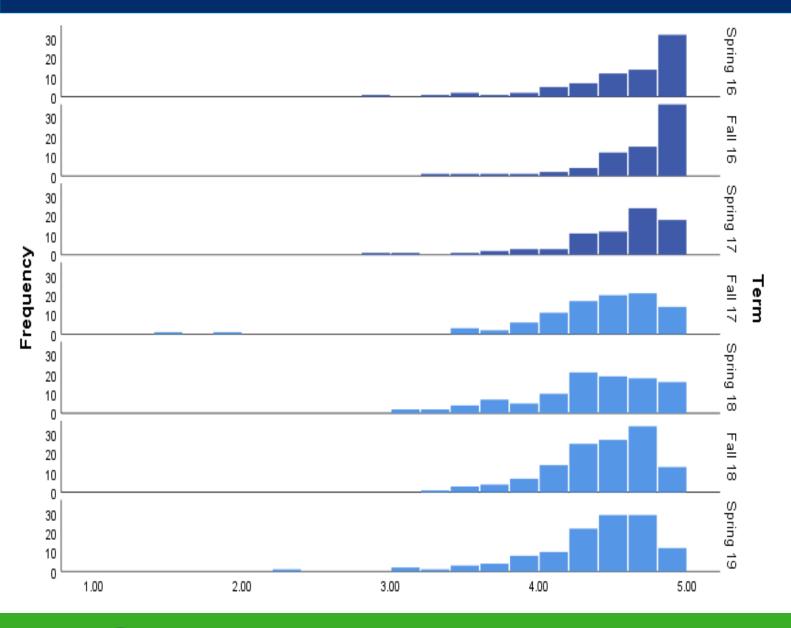


Quantitative Results



- The increase in online course offerings has been driven by an increase in courses offered by the School of Health Professions (SHP)
- The number of course offerings from the School of Liberal Arts & Science (SLAS) has remained relatively constant





- Distribution of mean course evaluation scores by semester
- Beginning Fall 17 a revised course evaluation form was implemented
- All quantitative analyses made using data from Fall 17 and later



Result of Quantitative Analyses

No significant findings between courses that used the SNAP template and those that did not. This was found in overall course evaluation score as well as for specific items from the course evaluation.

Specific Course Evaluation Questions

- 1. The course requirements and expectations were clear
- 2. Grading scales, rubrics, exams, and/or grading systems for the course related to the assignments, projects, activities were clear and understandable
- 4. The content of the course supports the learning objectives of this course
- 15. The tools used in the course support the learning objectives of this course
- 17. Course design and navigation facilitate readability and ease of use

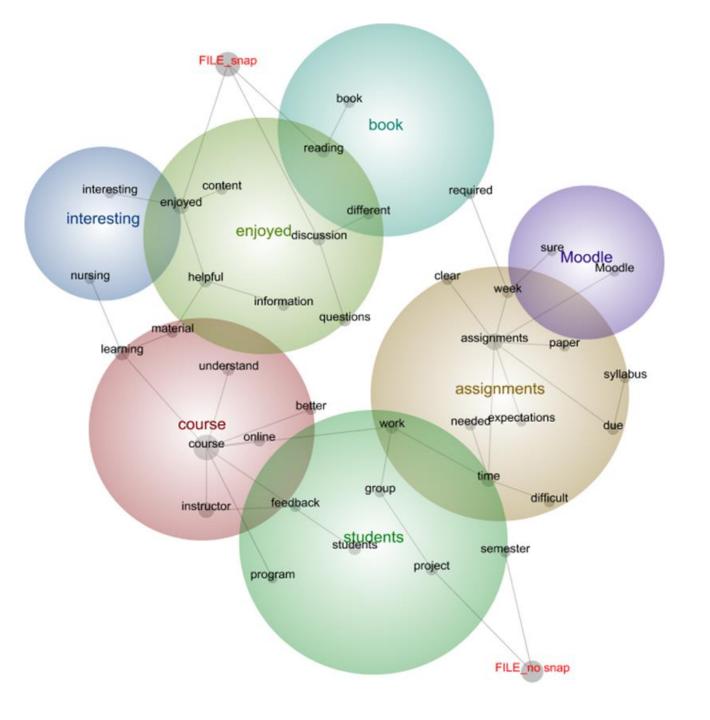


Qualitative Results

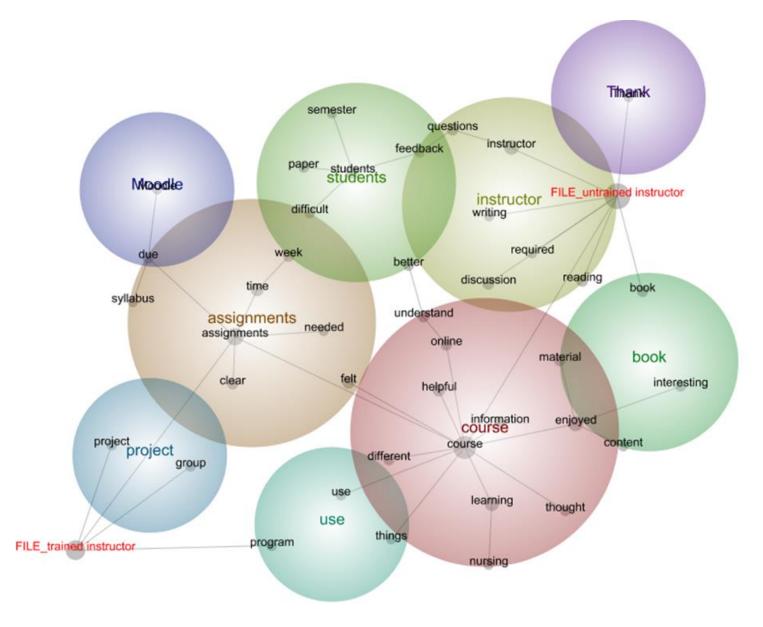
Qualitative Data from End-of-Course Evaluations

- Leximancer
- Automated content analysis
- Bayesian statistics and Boolean algorithms
- Identifies concepts
- Creates themes from associated concepts

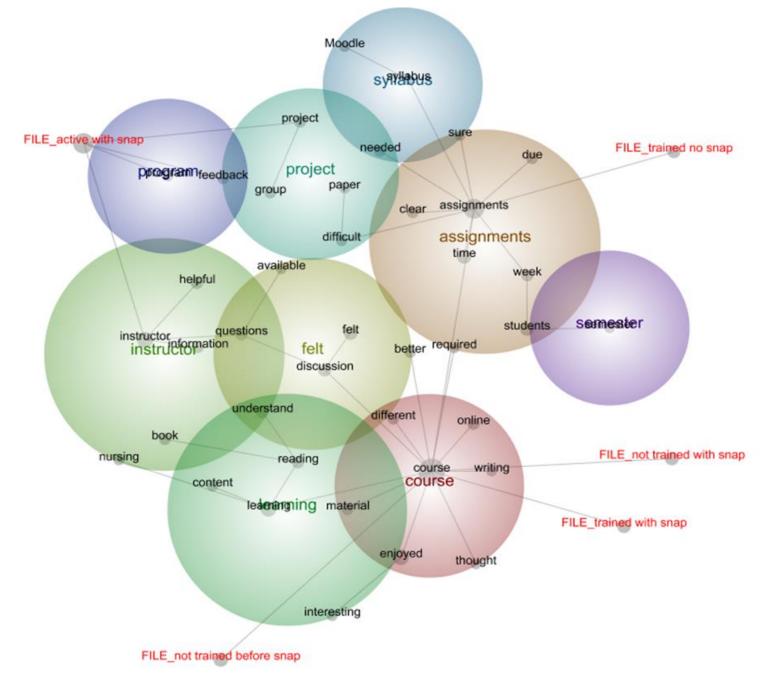




- The two files are diametrically positioned
- The theme "bubbles" have virtually no overlap
- The concepts near each file position show different conversations are taking place in the qualitative comments students can make on their course evaluations



- We again see that the files are diametrically positioned
- There is a bit more overlap among themes, but not much
- The concepts being mentioned in the student evaluation comments are distinct between the two files



- Most of the files are distinctly positioned away from each other
- Because of the number of files being compared, we see more overlap among themes
- Yet we still see quite distinct concepts associated with each separate data segment

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusion: Initial Conversion to QM format is a Step in the Process, not the Culmination

- It's not just the numbers! Qualitative analyses play an important role in understanding the impact of applying the QM Standards on the student experience
- Our analysis indicates that use of *pre-existing* End of Course Student Survey may not be optimal for evaluating impact of QM Standards
- Develop instructors as public opinion leaders (example: length of syllabus)
- "They" becomes "We"



Recommendation: Anticipate an Intermediate Step - Managing Faculty and Student Perceptions

- Faculty Development
 - Accentuate QM whys and benefits
 - Emphasize course evaluations enhancement strategies
 - Reiterate use of synchronous sessions to sharing whys and benefits with students



Course Eval Sheet used in Faculty Development

+							
	Circle one number for each line.	1 = Strongly	2 = Disagree	3 = Neutral	4 = Agree	5 = Strongly	NA = Not Applicable
	Experience with this course:	Disagree	Disagree	recuta	716100	Agree	тфрисавіс
1.	The learning objectives of the course were clear	1	2	3	4	5	NA
2.	Course requirements/expectations regarding attendance were clear.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
3.	Grading scales, rubrics, and/or grading systems for the course and its assignments/projects/activities were clear and understandable.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
4.	The assigned text books/readings were useful to understanding course content.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
5.	The content of the course was well organized.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
6.	The information gained from this course will help me in other courses.	1	2	3	4	5	NA
7.	The information gained from this course will help me professionally.	1	2	3	4	5	NA

Strategies to enhance scores in the area of Experience with this Course:

What will be my message?	How will it be delivered? Course announcement, video, collaborate session, etc.	When during the course will it be delivered? What week or module?



New Student Online Orientation





Courses / Fall Semester 201

Fall Semester 2019 - GENERAL STUDENT ORIENTATION (ORI-192-AS

CONTENTS

START HERE



- 1. Confirming Your Information
 Progress: 0 / 1
- 2. ArgoExpress and Other Resources
- 3. Using ArgoMail and Related Resources

- 4. Catalog / Academic Calendar
- 5. Familiarizing Yourself With Moodle
 Progress: 1/2
- 6. EdAssist Information
- 7. Alcohol-Wise and Consent & Respect Modules
 Required for All Students

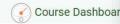
required for 7

8. Campus Assistance / Contact List

9. Student Welcome

Conditional

10. Wrap-Up Progress: 0 / 1



START HERE

Welcome to your Orientation (Start-UP) Course.

Use the *navigation block (found at the top of each page)* to work through the modules and complete your orientation to our University.

You must complete these modules, and even the activities/resources within the

modules, in order. Please note that you will not be able to access activities/resources unless you have already completed the previous activity/resource. So, be purposeful on how you move through this course.



Help Resources for Students

Have questions about the basics of how Moodle works? Click below to access brief online tutorials.

Accessing and Using Moodle

Have questions about how to post or e-mail effectively? Click below to access our University

Guidelines for Effective Communications and Netiquette.

Click for our Distance Learning FAQ

(Frequently Asked Questions, including information about Collaborate).

View a brief Tutorial on using Turnitin to submit your papers for Originality and Grammar Check.

Navigate to the Student Online Learning Help Resources on SharePoint

Also check out the ONLINE HELP LINKS Open LMS and Moodle.org as well as Accessibilty Policy provided at the bottom of every page on our Moodle site.

Click to access our Academic Support Centers, including our Library, Disability Services, Math and Writing Centers, and our Academic Success Center.

Click to refer to the University's formal **Academic Policies**, including plagiarism, grade appeals, graduation, etc.

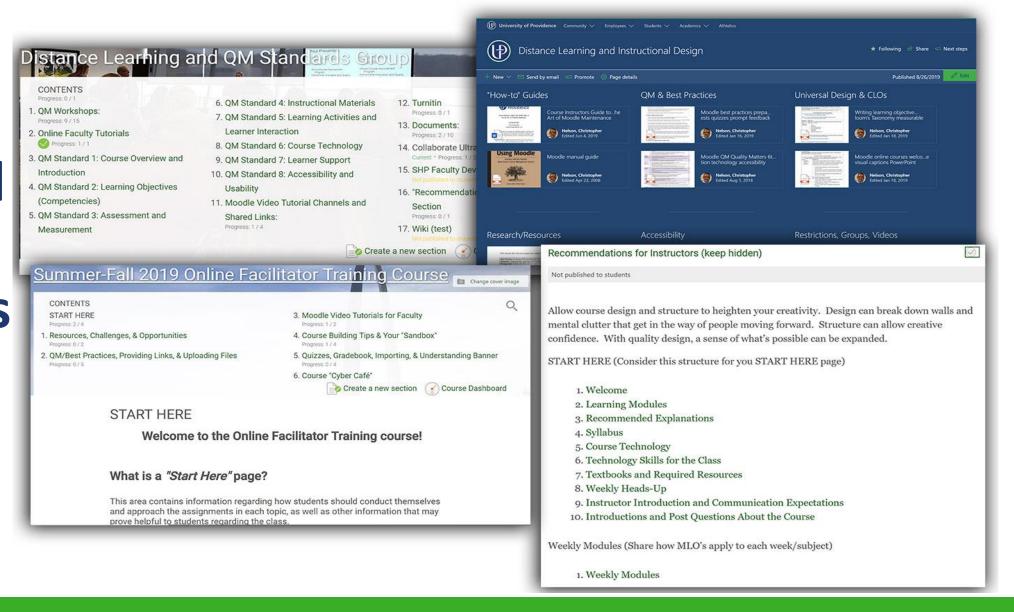
Technical Support

The University of Providence provides the **Information Services ServiceDesk** for use by its faculty, staff, and students. We are the single point of contact for questions pertaining to university-issued computers, software, networking, and telephone services.

Support for other **student-owned**, **non-university devices** is limited, but the ServiceDesk should be the student's first place to seek support for all information technology problems or questions.

The ServiceDesk also provides group and individual training opportunities. If you need assistance with university supported applications (MS Office 365, E-mail clients, Sophos Endpoint, MoodleRooms, etc.), or with system maintenance such as backing up data or removal of spyware, Information Services is here to ensure that your use of technology at UP is a productive and positive part of your university experience.

Expanded Faculty Resources





Next Steps

- Develop a survey tool that more specifically focuses on QM Standards
- Future research focus on courses that have gone through the peer-review process



Questions

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