

Quality Initiative 2013-2018

Overview

The Quality Initiative will be achieved through the satisfaction of two main objectives: (1) by implementing the Quality Matters (QM) process for recognizing the quality of online course offerings and (2) by including an analysis of these course offerings to ensure inclusivity such that all students – including underrepresented and minority students – are well served in the online learning environment.

Goals

1. By the end of 2018, receive Quality Matters (QM) recognition for all mature online courses offered by campus departments and the Adult Degree program. In order to progress through the QM course review process, a course must have been taught twice; thus, the goal is to have all courses that have been taught at least once online by campus departments and the Adult Degree program to receive QM recognition. It should also be noted that courses are certified, not instructors. Thus, if an instructor teaches more than one online course, he or she would need to put all courses through the QM review process. We address this goal below by describing the Advanced Online Teaching Fellows program and the Additional Course option for QM recognition.
 - The goal currently omits Nursing courses as many are offered in collaboration with other campuses. However, inclusion of the Nursing courses may be possible and would offer the benefit of learning from the department's low achievement gap. Given the current data, they are clearly doing something "right" in their online offerings with respect to inclusivity, and likely the knowledge gained from progressing through the QM process with Nursing courses would help align other courses on campus with inclusive excellence/diversity goals.
 - At this time, the goal omits Outreach's professional courses as they are a mix of non-credit and blended courses that may require us to use a different QM rubric.
2. By the end of 2018, require faculty with no UW-Green Bay online teaching experience to participate in professional development prior to teaching online. This experience could be the Starter Online Teaching Fellows program, described below, and then lead to participation in the Advanced Online Teaching Fellows, also outlined below, which would allow an opportunity for the course to be QM recognized.
3. Develop a research project to assess the impact of the Quality Initiative (QI), focusing on the role implementation of QM recognition for all courses plays in students' experiences with online courses and the eventual integration of inclusive excellence/diversity goals into course development. Possible questions could include:
 - Has the QI improved student satisfaction with online courses?
 - Has the QI enhanced student performance in online courses?
 - Has the QI reduced/eliminated the achievement gap in online courses?

Professional development options for faculty

The budget outlines, financially, what will be required to fulfill these goals. After analyzing the number of courses that are currently offered online, the projected numbers noted in the budget for each of the below categories allow us to reach Goals 1 & 2 listed above.

Advanced Online Teaching Fellows (Advanced OTF)

The Advanced OTF is a two-part program that offers professional development to faculty who have experience teaching online.

Participants receive a stipend of \$2,000 and are required to -

1. Attend a blended course that includes discussion on a variety of advanced online pedagogical issues and the concepts and practices of the QM rubric (\$1,000).
2. Redesign and receive QM recognition for a mature online course (\$1,000).

In order to become QM recognized, a three-person team reviews each course. These reviewers are all QM-trained, with one serving as a Master Reviewer (\$350) and two serving as Peer Reviewers (\$150 each). Thus, for each course to be reviewed the cost is \$650.

Additional Course Option

The Additional Course option allows graduates of the Advanced OTF to redesign and receive Quality Matters recognition for additional mature courses. Participants receive a stipend of \$500. As noted above, the cost for each course to be reviewed is \$650.

Please note that over time, the number of Additional Course participants is projected to increase. This allows that as more instructors receive QM recognition in one course (through the Advanced OTF program), they will have an option to receive QM recognition for additional courses.

Starter Online Teaching Fellows (Starter OTF)

The Starter OTF offers professional development to faculty who are new to online teaching.

Participants receive a stipend of \$1,500 and are required to attend a blended course that includes discussion on a variety of basic online pedagogical issues.