



Building an Online Ed.D. Program on a Foundation of Research-Based Best Practices

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This session chronicles the initiative of a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program to improve the quality of its online courses. The initiative included three objectives in the application of research-based best practices for online course design: (1) train faculty, (2) provide internal resources and guidance, and (3) achieve external certification of Ed.D. program courses. As a result of the successful completion of these objectives, the program outcomes included: improved online student experiences; faculty, course, and program recognition; and a competitive advantage in the marketplace. Recommendations include the use of Quality Matters for research-based best practices and course review certification as well as a comprehensive team effort focused on student outcomes.

Initiative Objective #1

Train faculty and staff on the utilization of internationally recognized [research-based best practices](#) and processes for quality in the design of online courses

All faculty members with Ed.D. program core and research courses required to successfully complete the [Applying the Quality Matters Rubric \(APPQMR\) workshop](#) and recommended to successfully complete the [Improving Your Online Course \(IYOC\) workshop](#)

Initiative Objective #2

Provide internal resources and guidance to faculty in the implementation of internationally recognized research-based best practices for quality in the design of online courses

[“How Can a Course be Prepared for an Official Review”](#)

Internal Course Reviews: Instructor taught the course a minimum of two semesters and instructor successfully complete the Applying the Quality Matter Rubric (APPQMR) Workshop

External Course Reviews: [Subscriber-Managed by a certified Course Review Manager \(CRM\)](#)

Initiative Objective #3

Achieve external course review certification for all courses in the Doctor of Education program

[All fourteen core and research courses](#) in the online Doctor of Education program have received Quality Matters certification