

Moving From the Flintstones to the Jetsons: Navigating the University of Indianapolis School of Nursing's Online RN-BSN & MSN Programs from QM Infancy to Continuous Improvement and Beyond

Background and Significance

The University of Indianapolis (UIndy) recognized a need for a common set of standards and a methodology for designing and developing distance learning programs.

Quality Matters (QM) was selected to ensure quality in the design and development of online courses.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions (C-RAC) provide broad guidelines for colleges and universities with a goal of designing and developing high quality courses and programs that promote student engagement and maximal learning outcomes.

The University of Indianapolis entered a partnership with a marketing firm and transitioned all of our post-licensure non-clinical nursing programs into an online delivery model.

Purpose

- To implement best practices in online learning that maintain maximal education outcomes for students
- To engage UIndy faculty in the design and development of high quality online courses and programs
- To maintain the quality education currently provided in our classroom and hybrid courses
- To create an evidence-based process to review and revise newly developed and existing courses

Objectives

- Implement a collaborative course design and development model that includes faculty and instructional designers
- Incorporate QM standards into course design and development
- Access and utilize specific resources for developing and teaching online courses
- Evaluate the effectiveness of online courses

Project Description

- Literature search to develop an evidence-based plan
- Needs assessment for current state of courses
- Interdepartmental collaboration to plan, design and develop online courses
- Establish set resources for faculty learning needs
- Ongoing phased implementation
- Partner with instructional designers on a comprehensive evaluation plan

Implications

- Utilize the QM rubric to develop institutional standards for online course design and development
- Develop a systematic peer review process for online courses
- Provide evidence to support the successful transition of traditional courses into online delivery

Evaluation

- Ongoing evaluation plan development
- Student and faculty evaluations for online courses
- Course revisions based on evaluation results

