

Adopt and Apply Research-Supported Standards and Practices to Ensure Quality for Online Education and Digital Learning at Course, Program and Institutional Levels

Authors : Yaping Gao

Abstract : With the increasing globalization of education and the continued momentum and wider adoption of online and digital learning all over the world, post pandemic, how could best practices and extensive experience gained from the higher education community over the past few decades be adopted and adapted to benefit international communities, which can be vastly different culturally and pedagogically? How can schools and institutions adopt, adapt and apply these proven practices to develop strategic plans for digital transformation at institutional levels, and to improve or create quality online or digital learning environments at course and program levels to help all students succeed? The presenter will introduce the primary components of the US-based quality assurance process, including : 1) five sets of research-supported standards to guide the design, development and review of online and hybrid courses; 2) professional development offerings and pathways for administrators, faculty and instructional support staff; 3) a peer-review process for course/program reviews resulting in constructive recommendations for continuous improvement, certification of quality and international recognition; and 4) implementation of the quality assurance process on a continuum to program excellence, achievement of institutional goals, and facilitation of accreditation process and success. Regardless language, culture, pedagogical practices, or technological infrastructure, the core elements of quality teaching and learning remain the same across all delivery formats. What is unique is how to ensure quality of teaching and learning in online education and digital learning. No one knows all the answers to everything but no one needs to reinvent the wheel either. Together the international education community can support and learn from each other to achieve institutional goals and ensure all students succeed in the digital learning environments.

Keywords : Online Education, Digital Learning, Quality Assurance, Standards and Best Practices

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