

School of Nursing CIT Faculty Fellows 2004-05: Evaluation

Please describe the progress the group made, the activities accomplished and lessons learned during the fellowship in relation to initial Fellows group goals. If the overall scope of the Fellowship changed significantly from the original group goals, describe why. This report should describe how the Fellowship activities and outcomes have been communicated to the School, analyze the impact of the Fellowship activities on the School as a whole, and describe at least a tentative plan for carrying the Fellowship activities forward (next steps). Finally, the report should provide an evaluation of the success or failure of the Fellowship overall as a means for helping the Fellows accomplish their stated goals.

The group identified the need for an evaluation method for existing courses. To develop this evaluation method, we reviewed literature to discover best evaluation practices and to discover informatics needs and specialty standards, including Institute of Medicine and accreditation standards. From this literature review, we developed an evaluation rubric for School of Nursing courses and an informatics matrix to determine current informatics strengths and potential weaknesses in the existing School of Nursing courses. Student focus groups were conducted, and the information obtained from the groups was used to validate the evaluation rubric, which was then applied to some existing School of Nursing courses, essentially performing a pilot test of the evaluation rubric. The focus groups also provided information about what the students felt the positive and negative aspects of online courses at the School of Nursing were.

After identifying the informatics standards through the literature review and applying the informatics matrix to the existing core courses at the School of Nursing, a template for standard course information was created. This template was used to create the 'Student Online Learning Expectations' document. This document was then used to create a web page that is linked to all School of Nursing courses using the Blackboard Learning System. The focus group results, evaluation rubric and informatics matrix were shared with respective committees within the School of Nursing, and subsequently posted to a shared drive within the school, so all faculty could access the tools and information.

Overall, the Fellows group feels that the efforts of the group have made, and will continue to make an impact on the quality of online courses at the School of Nursing. There are areas where the Fellows group will continue to work: possibly publishing the results of the focus groups and/or tools that were created in peer-reviewed journals; attempting to get the tools and information to contract faculty, which will enhance the quality of online courses at the School of Nursing, and possibly creating 'mentoring' programs in informatics teaching strategies for current and new School of Nursing faculty. The Fellows recommended that the School of Nursing integrate evaluation of online teaching into new faculty orientation, and provide mentoring as needed.

Which courses were directly affected by your project's activities?

Course Number	Course Title	Section #	Enrollment	Date of Course (Fall '04 through Summer '05)
N312	Research Utilization	01	37	Fall 2004
N307	Research Methods	01	32	Spring 2005
N307	Research Methods	03	33	Spring 2005
N303	Program Planning Outcomes Analysis		26	Summer 2004
N303	Program Planning Outcomes Analysis	03	30	Summer 2004
N303	Program Planning	03	30	Summer 2005

	Outcomes Analysis			
N330	Advanced Pathophysiology	01	30	Spring 2005
N441	Child Health and Primary Care	01	17	Spring 2005
N410	Issues and Standards in Informatics	01	12	Summer 2004
N411	Applied Theories in Informatics	01	12	Summer 2004
N412	Project Management for Health Systems	01	12	Fall 2004
N413	Informatics Infrastructure for Safe Patient Care	01	12	Fall 2004
N308	Applied Statistics			Summer 2005