

Comparing Outcome Objectives with Delivery of Curricular Content

CurrMIT's value as an analytical tool is highlighted by a study of course delivery against educational objectives at **Mayo Medical School**. Debra S. Lafferty, Instructional Resources Coordinator at Mayo, cites this ongoing study as an example of how faculty have been able to use CurrMIT to verify topic coverage against objectives.

The Challenge

Courses at Mayo Medical School are intended to meet certain MSOP1 and school-defined educational objectives. Faculty needed a way to ensure that across the various lectures, small-group meetings, and other sessions that make up a year-long course, the overall objectives for the course were covered. Further, faculty needed to verify that the content was appropriate within the context of the four-year curriculum.

The CurrMIT Solution

CurrMIT enabled Mayo faculty to get the verification they needed without taking on a huge data entry burden – and while improving education for students. First, faculty used CurrMIT to record information on their courses and associated teaching objectives. Then, education administrators asked students actually taking the courses to enter data on sessions within each course. At the end of each year, faculty could run reports to examine how topic coverage in delivered sessions reflected that articulated by external and internal teaching objectives.

The Benefits

CurrMIT allows faculty to analyze their own course offerings over the space of a year and verify that the course delivery that year met its intended objectives. CurrMIT data helps them to see where they may wish to make changes for the next year, if needed. This ongoing effort also enhances the level of detail at which the curriculum is documented, which, over time, makes richer data available for additional research. CurrMIT functions here as a pedagogical tool as well as a growing database with expanding potential.

For more information, contact Debra S. Lafferty, Mayo Medical School, Department of Education, 200 First Street, S.W., Rochester, MN 55905; lafferty.debra@mayo.edu; (507) 284-2648.

¹ The AAMC Medical School Objectives Project