Summary Overview of Course Alignment



The Advantages of Doing Course Alignment Exercise



Evaluate the Quality

Conducting a course alignment exercise will help you evaluate the quality of your course design and the learning experience for your students.



Validate Course Design

Validating that a course is well-aligned can help uncover gaps or problem spots that may impact teaching excellence and hinder student learning.



Optimize Course Design

The overarching goal with an alignment exercise is to optimize the teaching, learning and evaluation activities in a course.

Five Design Principles

Meyers and Nulty (2009) identify five design principles that are key to effective course design in higher education. They require teaching and learning materials and experiences that:

- are authentic and relevant;
- are constructive, sequential, and scaffolded;
- require students to engage in higher-order thinking;
- are aligned with each other and the course outcomes;
- are challenging, interesting, and provide motivation to learn.

The Process of Course Alignment



STEP I

Review your course learning outcomes

Identify the precise knowledge, skills and attributes;

Accurately reflect the level of learning.



STEP 2

Analyze the course assessments

Validate that the method and task(s) align with the intended level of learning;

Ensure suitable assessment activities and relevant content;

Clarify how learning outcome is evaluated;

Ensure relevance to the discipline thinking and practice;

Confirm formally evaluated on two to three occasions and with different methods.



STEP 3

Analyze teaching resources and learning activities

Confirm foundational knowledge and core concepts and sufficient depth of learning;

Identify practice activities and experiential components.



