

Ensure Coverage of Content in PBL Curriculum

Problem-Based Learning (PBL) has been the predominant curricular delivery method at the **University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine** since 1989. Within PBL, most disciplines are covered within the context of the healthcare problem. With the adoption of CurrMIT, comprehensive documentation of content coverage was enabled, aiding greatly in reporting to regulatory bodies and furthering the confidence of the faculty and student body that all essential materials are covered in the curriculum.

The Challenge

During a routine site visit, the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) asked for documentation of coverage of basic sciences within the curriculum. The process of polling the various course directors was deemed time consuming, and less than comprehensive. The Office of Medical Education realized that a better approach was needed; one that would allow timely and comprehensive views into the curriculum to ensure coverage of necessary content.

The CurrMIT Solution

CurrMIT was implemented with data entry by the course directors to ensure comprehensive coverage. A key-word strategy was adopted so each curricular element is tagged with one or more key-words to better facilitate reporting. The flexibility of the CurrMIT data structure allowed documentation of all components of the PBL pedagogy and related courses.

The Benefits

Reports can now be generated in seconds. The reports are routed to course directors for verification prior to dissemination. This provides a feedback loop for course directors to modify their CurrMIT data to most accurately reflect their course content. In this manner, a comprehensive view of the curriculum is maintained, allowing the Curriculum Committee (the governing body with oversight of the curriculum) to identify gaps and overlaps in the curriculum. Course directors interested in modifying their course content can quickly and easily query CurrMIT to determine the adequacy of coverage of their proposed change, prior to implementation. For this robust PBL curriculum, CurrMIT has allowed a transparent and comprehensive view into the curricular content.

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