

Supporting Curriculum Reform

CurrMIT offers formidable support in ongoing efforts to evaluate and improve curricula at the **Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIU)**. Terri Cameron, Director of Educational Resources, says CurrMIT is “an amazing tool” that has proved invaluable.

The Challenge

Institutional interest in self-study and improvement at SIU necessitated a careful inventory and evaluation of the curriculum. This endeavor was complicated by the curriculum’s recent conversion from two parallel tracks to a problem-based learning (PBL) curriculum, since the nature of PBL makes it difficult to document what students are exposed to and learn. The challenge SIU faced was to collect and report curriculum data in an organized, integrated way that constituted comprehensive analysis, yet maximized efficiency of effort.

The CurrMIT Solution

With CurrMIT, SIU was able to enter minutely detailed data on the entire curriculum. Once the data was entered, CurrMIT then provided the ability to do thorough analyses of courses, sessions, topics, disciplines, cases, and learning issues. Faculty ran detailed and customized reports “constantly” according to Ms. Cameron. Those reports allowed them to

- determine the nature and scope of topic coverage, and identify redundancies and deficiencies;
- examine current topic integration and uncover new opportunities for vertical integration of topics; and
- examine current cases and identify subjects requiring further coverage in cases—for example, Nutrition under Pregnancy in Endo-Reproduction.

To analyze topic coverage for PBL students, SIU entered faculty-generated learning issues for each case. Soon, CurrMIT will also include learning issues developed by each tutor group. Course Directors and tutors will then be able to compare their intent with what students actually developed, and follow up as necessary.

The Benefits

Educators involved in the reform effort found that CurrMIT made outstanding contributions to their efforts. CurrMIT offers a repository for all relevant information so that the extant curriculum can be clearly examined in detail. Beyond that, CurrMIT’s powerful reporting engine ensures that any cross-section of data desired-- such as content coverage across courses, disciplines, or cases--can be obtained. CurrMIT streamlined SIU's reform effort by offering a detailed analysis with maximum efficiency.

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