Using AAMC Curriculum Inventory Reports

AAMC has more than 70 publicly available curriculum reports. These reports showcase the curriculum inventory’s graphical representations of both aggregate and historical curriculum-data, and come from two sets of data:

- AAMC Curriculum Inventory, which includes detailed curriculum data uploaded each year by US and Canadian medical schools.
- The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) Annual Questionnaire, Part II, which includes curriculum policy and structure data from all U.S. AAMC-member medical schools. Because of year-to-year changes in the questionnaire, not all data points in the reports are available for all years.

In addition to these publicly available reports, you can also request customized reports from AAMC, either focusing on your school’s individual data or an aggregate report on a given topic.

Some reasons schools ask for reports include:

- Data to support or guide a curriculum renewal or transformation effort
- Data to support or stimulate your curriculum committee
- Data to benchmark an area of your curriculum for continuous quality improvement
- Data as part of a large plan for program evaluation
- Data to help you prepare for an upcoming accreditation site visit
- Data to help guide the curriculum of a new medical school

Schools who participate in the curriculum inventory have this service free of charge (although there may be a charge for unusually involved reports).

If you are a new medical school in the midst of your curriculum planning, benchmarking is more important than ever. AAMC recently established a new policy to support new medical schools’ access to the curriculum inventory and reports – if you are a new medical school and would like this assistance, please reach out at ci@aamc.org.

Another resource that may be useful to new medical schools, or schools considering curriculum renewal, are medical education curricular schematics. These publicly available visual representations of medical schools’ curricula may help schools find others working towards similar improvements.

Our schools are doing many interesting things with curriculum inventory reports. For example, faculty, curriculum committees, and course leadership at Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) utilize curriculum inventory discipline reports when considering curricular reform. In addition, their Office of Medical Education uses curriculum inventory data to support "ad hoc topic content reports" to regularly evaluate the content of the curriculum. OUWB’s curriculum inventory database is appreciated by leadership and the curriculum committees for its utility in mapping the core competency domains and program objectives to course and clerkship instruction and student assessment activities. Robin Rivest, MEd, MBA of OUWB will be further discussing OUWB’s use of curriculum inventory reports in an upcoming issue of Curriculum Inventory in Context.
In addition to the many uses curriculum inventory reports can have for schools, curriculum inventory data also helps AAMC answer media requests, create reports for government agencies, and guide AAMC internal initiatives.

As an example, recently AAMC wished to showcase our schools’ efforts in the areas of artificial intelligence and big data; searching the curriculum inventory helped AAMC identify schools to invite to be showcased.

Similarly, AAMC staff regularly turn to the curriculum inventory to respond to inquiries from policymakers and the media about medical education’s approach to a wide variety of topics. For example, legislators and reporters have taken a particular interest in recent years in medical education’s efforts to address the opioid epidemic. To help lawmakers better understand how medical education is addressing pain and addiction in the curriculum – and to better inform potential legislation that could affect medical education – the AAMC has pulled information from the CI and other sources. Having this database allows AAMC to both respond to these external groups and advocate for our members, and the data you provide makes all this possible.

If you’ve requested a curriculum inventory report, you may have noticed that the formatting in the report was recently redesigned with user-usability in mind. As you use your curriculum inventory reports, please provide us any feedback about content and design you’d like to ci@aamc.org.

If you are presenting at this year’s annual Learn Serve Lead meeting and would like to include data from the curriculum inventory, please make sure to submit your customized report request by September 15, 2018.

Onward!

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