Making curriculum visible: Engaging students in learning outcomes and career relevance through a multi-dimensional, interactive map

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Fellowship Objectives

The proposed Fellowship aims to generate a national conversation around how to better communicate and engage students in their program of study through the implementation and support of *MyCourseMap*, a multi-dimensional interactive curriculum map using digital and touch technology that increases transparency and relevance of curricula for students.

The Fellowship offers access to an already developed interactive curriculum visualisation tool – *MyCourseMap* – built on digital-touch technology for all mobile devices and is available for pilot across institutions.

Proposed Fellowship Outputs

This Fellowship will enable academics and students to employ a whole-of-program, interactive map from the point of enrolment. The outputs are threefold:
1. Participating institutions have *MyCourseMap* for use with students;
2. The Fellowship will generate guides through which the broader sector will be able to adopt the tool and
3. The Fellowship will generate a community of practice who will address the important issue of engaging student with curricula within and beyond the Fellowship.

Issue to be Addressed

Higher education students make study choices with a limited view of how their programs are structured. Students rarely see a program-wide view of their studies, and yet their programs are developed with just such a holistic view.   The Fellowship identifies the need to communicate transparent and "visible" curricula to students to enhance first year transition, retention and successful course completion. This Fellowship will enable academics and students to employ a whole-of-program, interactive map from the point of enrolment. The Fellowship represents a sector-wide program of change using a unique curriculum visualisation tool – *MyCourseMap.*

When you start university…
where do you start?
Enrol?
What units?
Specialisation?
Graduate attributes
CLOs
Employability
This
That
Other

MyCourseMap Journey

MyCourseMap
Course information at your fingertips
Featuring
- At-a-glance portal
- Intuitive navigable interface
- Visual rich interactive unit pages
- Customise to institution brand and training schedule
- Get started in minutes
- Intuitive administration console

2007: Inception of *MyCourseMap* concept displayed as a 2-D visual map

Consultation with students and staff

2013: FHS funding in November
2014: Proof-of-concept iPad App. Established *MyCourseMap* research team
Dissemination, evaluation & refinement

2015: Working *MyCourseMap* Accessible to all mobile devices Used in selected courses at Curtin Shortlisted for Curtin Innovation and Commercialisation Award.

2016: OLT National Teaching Fellowship Finalist for ASCILITE Innovation Award

MyCourseMap is ready for pilot by all institutions

What students and staff say about MyCourseMap Tool

Students

Three main themes
1. **User-friendly and easy to navigate**
2. **Providing a holistic picture of a degree**
3. Useful for planning.

- One stop portal for course information - **immediate relevance**
- Horizontal and vertical integration of curriculum – **holistic view**
- Peer, graduate and employer stories –**motives and inspires**
- Links learning outcomes to assessments – **assessment drives learning**
- Links content to program outcomes – **competency & accreditation**
- Graduate capabilities – **graduate success and employability**
- **One tool many uses** – marketing, curriculum review and renewal, accreditation, remediation and study plan….and more

Staff
Four main themes
1. Incorporation of modern technology
2. **User-friendly and easy to navigate**
3. **Providing a holistic picture of a degree**
4. Multiple applications and uses.

"... so that was all in one place, it would help me get organised so that I can plan ahead and stuff like that. So yeah in the long run it would help me in my learning experience."

"It's quite visually simple, easy to work your way around it."

"…I think it is a great idea. I can't really emphasise how great it is for curriculum builders, unit coordinators, head of schools, within faculty. Even for the admin staff at University. Not only University, its even for any institution to be honest. Educational institutions, TAFE that could be implemented quite easily…"

"…the fact that its an App itself is only really appealing to this kind of generation. It's a lot better than a piece of paper or a brochure"

"When I enrolled I wasn't sure actually what I was going to be going into. And I had no idea about any of the units that I would be having to enrol in but having this App it shows you all the units."

"I think it is great because when you are studying and if you need to look at a course outline, or if you need to look at the assessments it's quick, you can just go to the one spot instead of looking through Blackboard."

"..this is so much more elegant and user friendly and versatile than either the Course Finder or the Handbook…"

"…it was great to be able to see an overview, because whenever, as a designer, I would come in to work on something, it would take a while to assemble that information…"

Make tomorrow better.