



QM's Rubric for Higher Education Courses

The Quality Matters Rubric is a set of standards used to evaluate the design of online and blended courses. The rubric is based on research-supported and practice-based standards.



It emphasizes the importance of course design elements that are critical to student success, such as alignment, engagement, and accessibility.

The rubric's detailed standards and annotations provide clear guidance on what constitutes high-quality course design, making the self-review process more straightforward and manageable.



Interested, But Not Sure Where to Begin?

OIT's Instructional Design and Technology (IDT) team staff are here for you! Contact us at IDT@uhcl.edu and request a consultation to learn more.





2025 FACULTY DEVELOPMENT WEEK

Exploring Instructional (Re)Design: Let QM Be Your Guide

Continuous Improvement in Online and Hybrid Courses

- » When we periodically reevaluate and redesign our courses, instructors can enhance student learning outcomes, maintain academic integrity, and contribute to our own professional development. «

Where do I start?

There is no one-size-fits-all approach. However, you might consider performing a self-review of your existing course using the current Quality Matters (QM) Rubric for Higher Education.



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What elements do I need to change?

The answer depends upon your own review of the existing course and the changing needs of you and your students. Critical areas to review and consider include:

- Instructional alignment
- Updated content
- Opportunities to enhance learner engagement
- Adopting newer technologies
- Exploring new feedback opportunities
- Reimagining assessments to discourage cross-semester academic integrity challenges



QM Standards

Overview

Who knows? You might even eventually decide to submit your online course for formal review and certification by Quality Matters!

Below are the eight main categories that guide a self-review. Within each category, the QM Rubric provides several Specific Review criteria to guide your analysis of your course.

- Course Overview and Introduction
- Learning Objectives (Competencies)
- Assessment and Measurement
- Instructional Materials
- Learning Activities and Learner Interaction
- Course Technology
- Learner Support
- Accessibility and Usability


