Curriculum Design

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Definition

A planned educational experience that is an expression of educational ideas in practice
Four Key Elements

• Content
• Teaching and Learning Strategies
• Assessment Processes
• Evaluation Processes
Objectives Model

- Behavior we intend to change in the learner
- The objectives drive the four key elements
- Limitations-model restricts curriculum to knowledge and skills that can be only described by behavioral objectives
- Grown out of favor and no longer accepted as gold standard

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**Behavioural objectives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acceptable verbs</th>
<th>Unacceptable verbs</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To write</td>
<td>To know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To recite</td>
<td>To understand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To identify</td>
<td>To really understand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To differentiate</td>
<td>To appreciate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To solve</td>
<td>To fully appreciate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To construct</td>
<td>To grasp the significance of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To list</td>
<td>To enjoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To compare</td>
<td>To believe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To contrast</td>
<td>To have faith in</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Objectives

• Define curriculum
• Describe Kern’s six step approach to curriculum design
• Practice writing a curriculum using a curriculum implementation worksheet
• Recite curricular ideas with peers
Outcomes Based Curriculum

- Curriculum should be defined by the outcomes you want your students to obtain
- Curriculum design works backwards from outcomes to the other elements
- Focuses curriculum designers on the learners rather than on the staff
Outcomes vs. Objectives

- Participants of this workshop will:
  - Attain knowledge and skills to create curriculum
  - Produce planned curricula using existing educational frameworks
  - Utilize the four key elements of curriculum design

- Define curriculum
- Describe Kern’s six step approach to curriculum design
- Write a curriculum using a curriculum implementation worksheet
- Recite curricular ideas with peers
Activity 1

You have been named Dean of a new medical school and have been asked to guide the curriculum design.

What would be the desired outcomes for the students in your ideal medical school?

Work in pairs to complete the worksheet (Worksheet 1)
Outcomes of the new Kaiser Medical School

- We want to help them learn how to be **lifelong learners**
- Students will be focused on **health, and not just disease**
- We’re going to teach our students to go **beyond the clinical setting** to figure out what patients’ needs are in their daily lives.
- And they'll be using **data** to figure out where there might be gaps in the care for their patients.
- We're going to have a major focus on **wellness** for our students

Activity 2

Choose one of the outcomes from Kaiser

List content for the curriculum based on the outcome you chose?

Work in pairs to continue completing the worksheet (Worksheet 1)
Outcomes of the new Kaiser Medical School

• We want to help them learn how to be lifelong learners
• Students will be focused on health, and not just disease
• We’re going to teach our students to go beyond the clinical setting to figure out what patients’ needs are in their daily lives.
• And they'll be using data to figure out where there might be gaps in the care for their patients.
• We're going to have a major focus on wellness for our students

Kern’s 6-Step Approach to Curriculum Development


• Free on google books

1) Problem Identification and General Needs Assessment
2) Needs assessment for targeted learners
3) Goals and objectives
4) Educational Strategies
5) Implementation
6) Evaluation and Feedback
Problem Identification

• What is the problem?
• Will this impact health care?
• Is this a problem only to you or to others?
• Start with a literature review
• Med Ed Portal!
Needs Assessment

- Who are your stakeholders?
- Who are you targeting?
- What are the gaps between what learners know and do and what you want them to know and do
- Inferred, verbalized, proven needs
  - Survey
  - Analysis of performance
  - Focus groups
  - Observation of clinical practice
Activity 3

(Worksheet 2)

Work alone-2 min

• Write down an educational problem you have identified, the target audience and any needs assessment you have done
• If you don’t have a needs assessment-what could you do?

Elevator pitch(1min each)

• In small groups, each share your educational problem and needs assessment
Goals and Objectives/Outcomes

• Kern describes as broad goals and objectives

• Once the needs have been established, the ends
  
  ->outcomes you want

• Broad objectives to begin

• Not measurable objectives
Measurable Objectives are still necessary

- Outcomes approach still requires you to create objectives - go back to worksheet 1
Educational Strategies

• Learning/Teaching
• Educational strategy = the teaching method
  • Small group
  • Bedside
  • Classroom
  • Experiential
Implementation

• Buy In
  • Make the team first
  • Whose support would you need to make this work
  • Who may understand the needs
  • Don’t make a curriculum and then bring it to leadership/learner-engage from the beginning

• Resources-do you have it or need it?
  • Teaching
  • Time
  • Space
  • Money
Evaluation and Feedback

• Individual Learner-Assessment
  • How are you going to know that the student’s achieved the outcomes you have created

http://www.gp-training.net/training/educational_theory/adult_learning/miller.htm
Evaluation and Feedback

• Programmatic Evaluation
  • Evaluation is used to maintain and improve the curriculum
  • Lessons learned
  • Barriers to success
  • Learner feedback
  • Session evaluations
  • Faculty evaluations

• No curriculum is perfect on the first go!
Three Levels of Curriculum

- **The planned curriculum**
  - What is intended by the designers

- **The delivered curriculum**
  - What is organised by the administrators
  - What is taught by the teachers

- **The experienced curriculum**
  - What is learned by the students
Take Home Points

• Begin with understanding the need and whether there is a problem
• Establish clear outcomes-what do you want to see in your learners
• There are four key elements needed in a curriculum-content, educational strategies, assessment and evaluation
• Don’t forget to think about resources and barriers
• Assess if the learner’s have achieved your outcomes and objectives
• Curricula aren’t stagnant and should be evaluated
Implementation Worksheets

• Please use these to begin designing your curriculum
• I am available any time to help—Thank you!

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