Teaching Strategies: Alignment Mapping Your Course

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Overview

What is alignment? Alignment is the concept that course components, such as reading materials and activities, work in conjunction to guide learners to the desired outcomes.

Measurable learning outcomes are the foundation for creating alignment.

Assessments (formal and informal) measure student accomplishments based on specific learning objectives.

Learning activities and instructional tools are relevant and supportive of the learning objectives. They effectively prepare students for the learning assessments.

What is a course alignment map? A course (alignment) map is a representation of how you intend to teach and assess each student learning objective identified for your course.

- Maps are created to ensure the course objectives relate to a cognitive function and have an appropriate assessment style.
- Learning objectives in each module, unit, or section are mapped back to the course objectives.
- Learning activities in each module, unit, or section are then mapped into each teaching session (face-to-face or online).

Mapping Your Course

There are many ways you can represent alignment in your course. One way you might approach mapping your course is using a table that demonstrates alignment like this course map with examples from various disciplines: Example Course Alignment Map

You might consider using this Blank Template Course Alignment Map to begin to map your own course, unit, or lesson. Start with writing effective learning outcomes, then work backward mapping your assessments and activities.

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