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.

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 wide-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.

MyCourseMap Journey

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.

"...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." (~ student)

"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..." (~ staff)

Proposed Fellowship Outputs

This Fellowship will enable academics and students to employ a wide-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.

MyCourseMap: an interactive visual map to increase curriculum transparency for university students and staff, Proceedings of ASCILITE pp 285 – 296 (Refereed Full conference paper)

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