

UF Pathways to Online Teaching Excellence

Background

In an effort to identify both quality and high-quality online courses across the State University System of Florida, a course review process has been established. UF's Committee for Excellence in Online Learning has adopted the Quality Matters rubric and merged it with the UF standards. Online course reviews are available by request.

Quality/High Quality Course Designations

Upon institutional review, online courses may earn a Quality, High Quality, or Exemplary designation.

- To receive a **Quality** Course designation, a course must:
 1. Successfully complete a *Florida Quality Online Course Review*
 2. Earn a minimum total of 93/143 points (65%) by
 - i. Satisfying all 21 Essential Quality Matters 3-point standards (for 63 points); and
 - ii. Earning 30 out of 44 UF points
 3. The course instructor "Pays it forward" by reviewing two other courses

- To receive a **High Quality** Course designation, a course must:
 1. Complete a *Florida Quality Online Course Review*
 2. Earn a minimum total of 121/143 points (85%) by
 - a. Satisfying all 21 Essential Quality Matters 3-point standards (for 63 points);
 - b. Earning an overall QM point value of at least 84/99 points; and
 - c. Earning 37/44 UF points
 3. The course instructor "Pays it forward" by reviewing two other courses

- To receive an **Exemplary** Course designation, a course must:
 1. Complete a *Florida Quality Online Course Review*
 2. Receive a minimum score of 135/143 (95%) total points
 3. Provide evidence that demonstrates exemplary and/or innovative practices
 4. The course instructor "Pays it Forward" by reviewing two other courses

UF + Quality Matters Rubric

The Quality Matters Rubric provides research-driven guidance for the design of online courses. The UF Committee for Excellence in Online Learning has added 12 additional items that support online teaching in the areas of: Instructor Team Presence, Community and Relationships, and Feedback.

The full UF + QM rubric with annotations is available via a [Canvas course site](#) with Gatorlink authentication. Due to QM license restrictions, only the UF-specific elements may be made publicly available. The UF standards are listed below.

NOTE: In the event that a standard is not appropriate for a specific course, the instructor may provide a brief explanation along with an alternate measure.

SRS	STANDARD	POINTS
1	COURSE OVERVIEW INTRODUCTION	UF
UF 1.10	Course materials provide written definitions of activities that constitute plagiarism and/or academic misconduct and consequences of committing such behavior.	2
3	ASSESSMENT AND MEASUREMENT	UF
UF 3.6	Any single (1) assessment that comprises 15% or more of the total grade uses appropriate security measures such as plagiarism detection and/or proctoring services.	3
4	INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS	UF
UF 4.7	Presentations are divided into segments with a target length of 4 - 10 minutes.	1
UF 4.8	Course materials include content that is relatable to learners of diverse backgrounds. Selected materials reflect a breadth of thought from various leaders in topics taught in the course.	2
5	COURSE ACTIVITIES AND LEARNER INTERACTION	UF
UF 5.5	Students are given the opportunity to relate personal experiences and apply their background knowledge/skills to the coursework.	1
7	LEARNER SUPPORT	UF
UF 7.5	Students are encouraged to be self-directed and take responsibility for their learning.	1
8	ACCESSIBILITY AND USABILITY	UF
UF 8.6	When synchronous sessions are included, reasonable accommodations are made for students who cannot participate.	2
UF 8.7	Course meets accessibility standards including but not limited to use of headings and subheadings, alternative image text, and color contrast.	3
9	INSTRUCTOR TEAM PRESENCE	UF
UF 9.1	The instructor team is visibly present throughout the course via frequent text, audio and/or visual communications.	3
UF 9.2	Instructor proactively addresses problems as they emerge and is responsive to student concerns.	3
UF 9.3	Instructor consistently demonstrates enthusiasm for the course subject matter.	2
10	COMMUNITY AND RELATIONSHIPS	UF
UF 10.1	Instructor provides space and encouragement for students to develop an online learning community.	3
UF 10.2	Instructor creates an inclusive, supportive, and engaging climate, through a variety of methods.	2
UF 10.3	Course activities are scheduled and available with sufficient time to allow students to manage their workload.	3

SRS	STANDARD	POINTS
UF 10.4	Instructor team cultivates an environment that reflects respect and an appreciation for students' diverse identities, life experiences, and backgrounds.	2
11	FEEDBACK	UF
UF 11.1	Feedback is provided in sufficient time for students to progress.	3
UF 11.2	Instructor team provides constructive and balanced feedback that acknowledges strengths as well as areas for improvement.	3
UF 11.3	Instructor requests student feedback on the course (assignments, materials and/or presentations).	3
UF 11.4	Instructor demonstrates ongoing changes and improvements based on constructive student feedback provided in current or previous term.	2
12	ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF QUALITY	UF
TOTAL UF POINTS AVAILABLE		44