Information Literacy Curriculum Map Completion Report

Physician Assistant Department

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Background

This project to map information literacy (IL) instruction into the Physician Assistant (PA) curriculum was sparked by an outreach message sent by Aaron Bowen to the PA faculty on August 17, 2017 (see appendix 1). As Chair of the PA Department, Kim Darden was interested in learning more about services, including curriculum mapping, offered through the WSU University Libraries. Accordingly, she invited Bowen to the PA Faculty Meeting held September 21st, 2017 to discuss these services.

The curriculum mapping project

At the September 21st Faculty Meeting, Bowen presented an initial map of how IL instruction might be infused into the PA curriculum. This map concentrated on four main points at which instruction might be presented:

- Initial instruction in one or more courses at the beginning of the PA program
- Follow up/reinforcement instruction in one or more courses following the initial courses
- Evidence based practice instruction across the curriculum as needed
- Any supplemental points deemed necessary by members of the PA faculty

The map received a positive reception, though the PA faculty immediately began discussing alternate points at which instruction might be positioned across the curriculum. The final map accordingly looks different from the initial map, though three of the four main instruction concentrations are preserved.

The current curriculum map

The current curriculum map is as follows:

- Initial instruction for first year PA students in PA 717, Summer Semester
- Follow up/reinforcement instruction during Research Week for second year PA students, beginning of Fall Semester
- Evidence based practice instruction in PA 800 (and at any other points across the curriculum as needed)

There were no further supplemental points for instruction deemed necessary by members of the PA faculty. To ensure implementation of this map, Bowen will be embedded in the Blackboard shells for PA
He will also maintain a permanent library presence in the PA Research Portal, a Blackboard portal dedicated to research resources useful to PA students. Students will have 24/7 access to his contact information through these access points and are invited to send research-related questions to him at any time. He will also work with PA faculty as needed to implement and help evaluate research components to PA assignments.

In consultation with each other on June 18th, 2018, Darden and Bowen agreed that the following map is a sound means of ensuring PA students receive comprehensive instruction on understanding the research process and on searching library resources effectively, evaluating the information they find, and then using it to complete their own studies. Accordingly they determined that the map is complete for the 2018-2019 school year, and will be re-evaluated during the summer of 2019.