Can You Credit This? A Credit-Bearing Information Literacy Course for Graduate Health Science Students

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Overview

• Background and Context
• Course Development
• Syllabus
• Evaluation
• Next Steps
6 Academic Colleges + UFHealth
Background

Colleges of Medicine and Public Health and Health Professions integrate librarians via:

• Course-Integrated Lectures & Support

• Library stand-alone workshops
GMS 5909: Finding Biomedical Research Information and Communicating Science

• Designed to introduce the most important concepts, resources, methods, and tools used in searching for and communicating biomedical information - both literature and data.

• Students explore topics including literature searching, bibliographic citation software, basic NCBI resources, funding sources, data management, and plagiarism and information ethics.
GMS 5909: Course Development and Structure

- Syllabus developed and submitted to the curriculum committees:
  - College of Medicine
  - UF Graduate School
- Feedback from the COM curriculum committee incorporated into syllabus prior to submission to the graduate school level
- 9 classes, held twice a week
- Semi-flipped model
- Frequent instructional team meetings to review course content and activities
Now What?

• GMS 5909 successfully taught for 2 semesters
• Modular format allows for easy adaption
• Multiple PhD programs in the College of Public Health and Health Professions:
  – Audiology
  – Biostatistics
  – Clinical and Health Psychology
  – Epidemiology
  – Public Health (4 concentrations)
  – Rehabilitation Science
  – Speech-Language Pathology
New Course Approval Process

• Initial conversations with PHHP Associate Dean for Educational Affairs
• Meetings with stakeholders: discussed timing and content
• Offered as a “special topics” course
PHC 6937: Finding Health Research Information and Communicating Science

Course logistics:

• Taught over the summer A semester (May 14 – June 22)
• 6 registered students
• 5 were from Public Health (MPH and PhD) and 1 from Pharmacy (PhD)
PHC 6937: Finding Health Research Information and Communicating Science

What’s New:

• Two modules were swapped for more relevant content (systematic reviews and grey literature)

• Public Health liaison librarian brought in as additional instructor

• Taught different databases
Course Content

• **Class 1** – Searching the Biomedical and Health Literature: PubMed, MeSH, and MyNCBI

• **Class 2** – Searching the Biomedical and Health Literature: WOS and CINAHL

• **Class 3** – Organizing your Information: Refworks, Endnote, Mendeley, Papers

• **Class 4** – Grants: What you Need to Know Before and After Submitting
Course Content

• Class 5 – Data Management: Best Practices, Requirements, Resources
• Class 6 – Introduction to Systematic Reviews
• Class 7 – Grey Literature Resources
• Class 8 – Plagiarism, Citing, and Ethical Use of Information
• Class 9 – Measuring and Increasing your Research Visibility and Impact
Activities and Homework

• Example activities include:
  – Comparing searches from various literature databases
  – Analyzing search strategies
  – Creating accounts in different citation management tools
  – Creating an NIH Biosketch and data management plan
Assessments

• 2 quizzes – one mid course and one at the end
• Each instructor developed 3-4 questions based on the sessions they led
• Quizzes were auto-graded in Canvas
• Short answer quiz responses were team graded by all of the instructors
• Class participation – individually assessed by leader of each course session
Evaluation

- Informal feedback from students
- No formal course evaluation data
Lessons Learned from Adapting Courses

• Think ahead when designing courses
• Be persistent and flexible
• Course approval and registration processes for library-taught courses can vary
• Successful course terms differ by program