

WE RISE

Best Practice and Course Reconceptualization in Online Undergraduate Quantitative Reasoning

Jacquelyn Kelly, PhD

Associate Dean College of General Studies at University of Phoenix

Alex Edgcomb, PhD

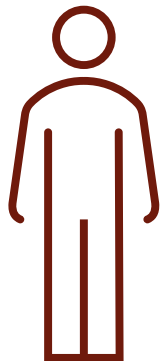
Sr. Software Engineer at zyBooks



Problem: STEM workforce shortage

“The next four courses - all math - scare me senseless.... Again - this class almost made me drop out - going to give it my all though.”

-Student



Math education methods



Math attrition



STEM workforce shortage

Solution: Translate theory to practice

Theory

Theory to Practice Gap

Practice

University of Phoenix Blueprint for Closing the Gap

Create
Framework

Course
Features

Apply
Framework

Pilot

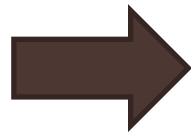
Plan for
Future

Institutional
Shift

Step 1: Create philosophical framework

Theory	Seminal works
Metacognition and Affect	[Dole1998][Mayer1998][Moons2007][Sinatra2005][Bandura1986]
Conceptual Change	[Strike1992][Carey1999][Carey2000][Chinn1993][Chi2008]
Social Constructivism	[Vygotsky1986]
Academic Self-concept	[Marsh1985][Bong2003]
Holism	[Dewey1997][Mahmoudi2012]
Systemic Functional Linguistics	[Halliday1992][Holliday1994]
21 st Century Knowledge Framework	[Kereluik2013][Mishra2019]

Step 2: Identify course features



Features

Advisory language

Remediation

Discussion questions

Reading assignment

Homework assignment

Grade pass back to student

Late work policy

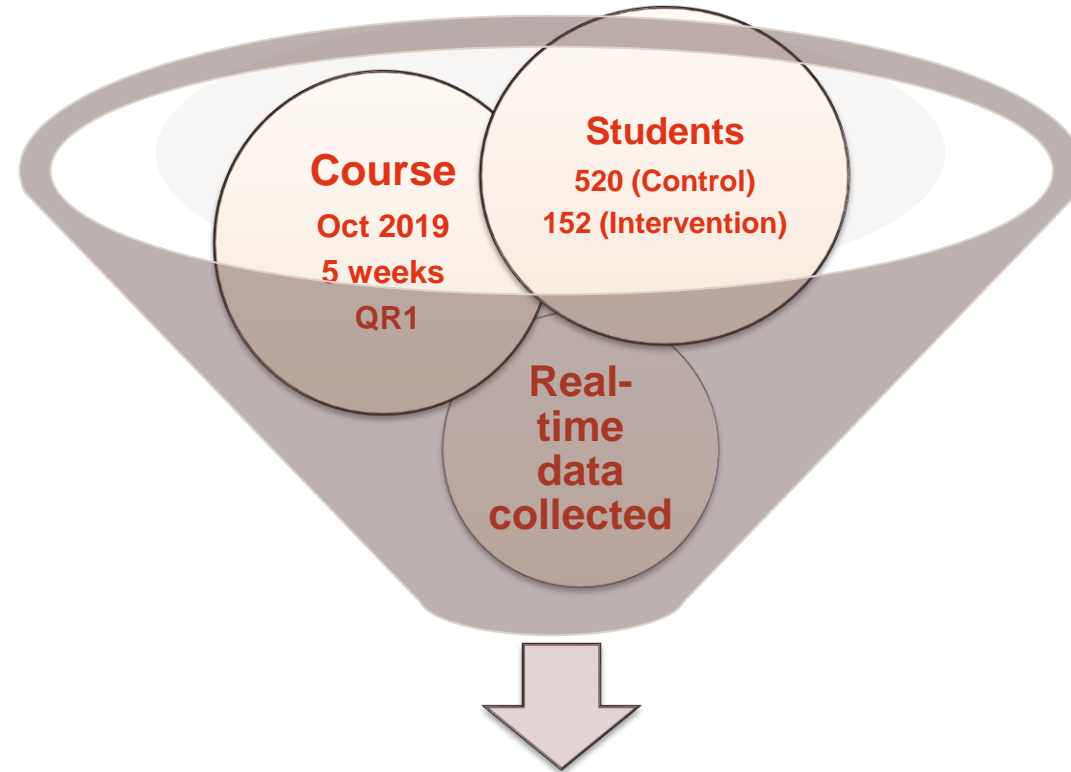
Exams

Rigor

Step 3: Apply framework to features

Theories per feature	Control	Intervention
Advisory language	0	4
Remediation	0	7
Discussion questions	2	7
Reading assignment	1	7
Homework assignment	1	7
Grade pass back to student	1	3
Late work policy	0	4
Exams	1	4
Rigor	1	5

Step 4: Pilot a proof of concept



Attrition Reduced:

14.6% (Control) vs 5.3% (Intervention)

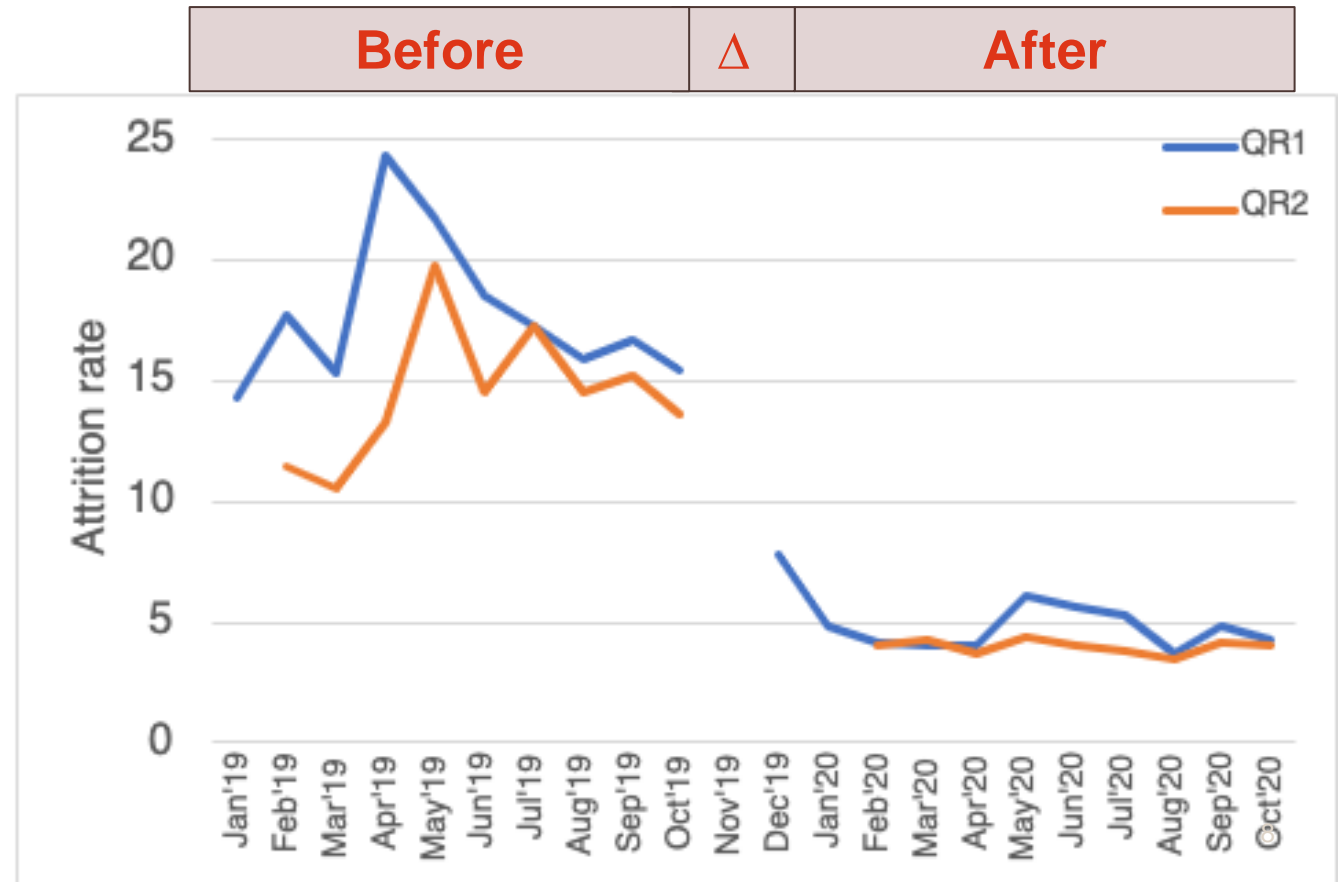
Step 5: Future implementation plans

Determine improvements

Course implementation plan

Communicate changes to stakeholders

Address institutional misconceptions



Step 6: Induce institutional shift



Conduct unique training for different stakeholders

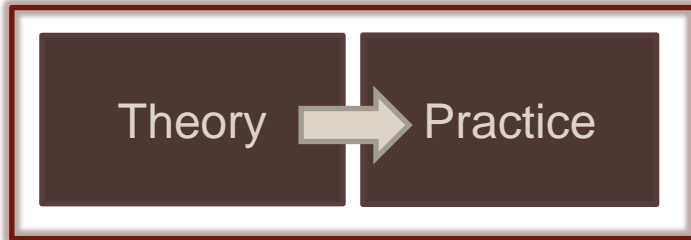
Institutional leadership
Cross-college leadership
Faculty
Assessment teams and instructional designers
Student support services



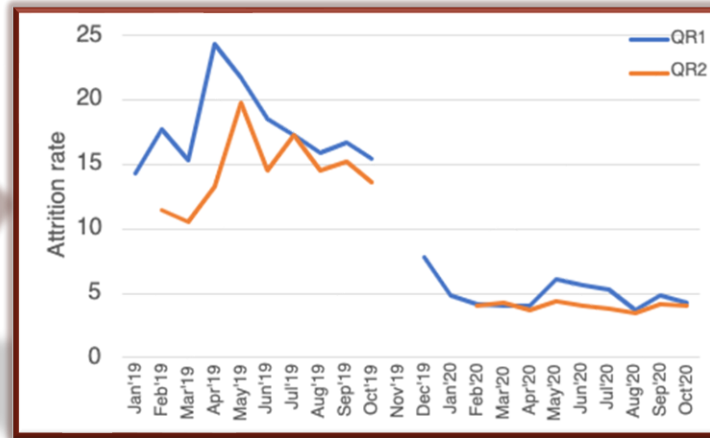
Establish continuous feedback loops for improvement

Conclusion

Close the Gap



Reduce Attrition



Stay #studentfocused

"I found myself dreading the class too but I take it all back. I have learned a lot and understand that I use quantitative reasoning without even knowing it."
-Student



References

- Dole, J. A., & Sinatra, G. M. (1998). "Reconceptualizing change in the cognitive construction of knowledge." *Educational Psychologist* 33(2-3): 109-128.
- Mayer, R. E. (1998). "Cognitive, metacognitive, and motivational aspects of problem solving." *Instructional Science* 26(1-2): 49-63.
- Moons, W. G., & Mackie, D. M. (2007). "Thinking straight while seeing red: The influence of anger on information processing." *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* 33(5): 706-720.
- Sinatra, G. M. (2005). "The "Warming Trend" in Conceptual Change Research: The Legacy of Paul R. Pintrich." *Educational Psychologist* 40(2): 107-115.
- Strike, K. A., & Posner, G. J. (1992). A revisionist theory of conceptual change. In R. Duschl & R. Hamilton (Eds.), *Philosophy of Science, Cognitive Psychology and Educational Theory and Practice* (pp. 147-176). Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.
- Carey, S. (1999). Sources of conceptual change. In E. K. Scholnick, K. Nelson & P. Miller (Eds.), *Conceptual Development: Piaget's Legacy* (pp. 293-326). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Carey, S. (2000). Science education as conceptual change. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 21(1), 13-19.
- Chi, M.T.H. (2008). Three types of conceptual change: Belief revision, mental model transformation, and categorical shift. In S. Vosniadou (Ed.), *Handbook of research on conceptual change* (pp. 61-82). Hillsdale, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Chinn, C. A., & Brewer, W. F. (1993). The role of anomalous data in knowledge acquisition: A theoretical framework and implications for science instruction. *Review of Educational Research*, 63, 1-49.
- Vygotsky, L. S. (1986). *Thought and language-Revised edition*. Cambridge, MA: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Marsh, H.W., & Shavelson, R. J. (1985). Self-concept: Its multifaceted, hierarchical structure. *Educ. Psychol.* 20: 107-123.
- Bong, M., & Skaalvik, E.M. (2003). Academic Self-Concept and Self-Efficacy: How Different Are They Really? *Educational Psychology Review* 15(1).
- Dewey, J. (1986, September). Experience and education. In *The educational forum* (Vol. 50, No. 3, pp. 241-252). Taylor & Francis Group.
- Mahmoudi, S.; Jafari, E.; Nasrabadi, H.A.; Liaghatdar, M.J. (2012). Holistic Education: An Approach for 21 Century. *International Education Studies*, 5(2).
- Halliday, M. K. (1992). Towards probabilistic interpretations. In E. Ventola (Ed.), *Functional and systematic linguistics* (pp. 39-63). Mouton.
- Holliday, W. G., Yore, L. D., & Alvermann, D. E. (1994). The reading-science learning-writing connection: breakthroughs, barriers, and promises. *Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, 31, 877-893.
- Kereluik, K., Mishra, P., Fahnoe, C., & Terry, L. (2013). What knowledge is of most worth: Teacher knowledge for 21st century learning. *Journal of digital learning in teacher education*, 29(4), 127-140.
- Mishra, P., Anbar, A., Scragg, B., & Ragan, L. (2019). "Developing the future substance of STEM Education: A Concept Paper". Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, Arizona State University. <https://education.asu.edu/sites/default/files/substance-of-stem-education-concept-paper.pdf>
- Bandura, A. (1986). *Social Foundations of Thought and Action: A Social Cognitive Theory*. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall.