

The Higher Learning Commission Action Project Directory

Northwest Missouri State University

Project Details	
Title Course Redesign	Status ACTIVE
Category 1-Helping Students Learn	Updated
Timeline	Reviewed
Planned Project Kickoff 08-27-2012	Created 08-22-2012
Target Completion 03-01-2014	Version 1

1: Project Goal

A: The goal of the Course Redesign Action Project is to both improve student success and reduce DFW rates in critical gateway courses or to enable the expansion of course enrollment limits while allowing better deployment of faculty resources.

2: Reasons For Project

A: The Course Redesign Action Project is a collaborative effort between Northwest's faculty and its Center for Information Technology in Education (CITE) to redevelop and deploy critical gateway courses that face challenging DFW rates. In addition, due to staffing challenges, Northwest is also seeking to redesign large enrollment courses in such a manner as to free up faculty time to work on new or additional courses and programs, while at the same time maintaining or improving the quality of the delivered course.

3: Organizational Areas Affected

A: Northwest's faculty and the CITE office will work in concert to redevelop and deploy critical gateway or large enrollment courses. Key groups that the faculty and CITE will work with are the Deans Council, the Northwest Leadership Team, Departmental Chairs, Faculty Senate, and the Office of Institutional Research

4: Key Organizational Process(es)

A: This project will institutionalize a formal process by which courses experiencing high rates of DFWs can be redesigned to significantly improve student performance and success. The project will also provide an array of course design models that academic departments may follow in order to either increase course section enrollment sizes or reduce staffing requirements while maintaining or improving the quality of the delivered course and improving student learning outcomes.

5: Project Time Frame Rationale

A: During the fall of 2012, Northwest's department chairs and the CITE office, in conjunction with the Deans Council and the Office of Institutional Research, will survey the range of gateway courses to identify particular courses experiencing high rates of DFWs. In addition, the department chairs and the Deans Council will review future staffing needs and challenges and identify large enrollment courses that may provide opportunities for effective redesign with the goal of reducing staffing requirements.

During the spring of 2013, the CITE office will work with faculty associated with the selected gateway and/or large enrollment courses in a series of workshops that will provide training in the integration of various course redesign models and teaching practices that will be implemented during the summer of 2013 when work on the actual course redesigns will take place. The focus will be on redesigning these courses through the integration of technology and pedagogical best practices.

6: Project Success Monitoring

A: During this initial deployment of the redesigned courses, a systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of the program will be conducted based on the National Center for Academic Transformation's course evaluation protocols. The course management system data analytics tool, Enterprise Reporting, will be used to collect data regarding student performance and success.

7: Project Outcome Measures

A: The Course Redesign Action Project will be deemed to be successful if either the DFW rates are decreased by at least 10% in the gateway courses included in the project or if the staffing needs of the selected courses are reduced while still maintaining the quality of the delivered courses.