

IU South Bend Assessment Grant Final Report

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End Date: January 31st, 2009

Designing the Research Instrument for Evaluating the Effectiveness of Online Courses

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Introduction

On August 26th, 2008 the IUSB Assessment Committee granted Dr. Yvonne I. Larrier, Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling and Human Services an Assessment Grant in the amount of \$810.00 to design a research instrument that will be given to students in online courses to determine their perceptions of the effectiveness of an online course in their understanding of course content and in promoting their positive academic performance. The grant was used to compensate eleven students who participated in the focus groups, compensate a research assistant to transcribe the tapes, purchase recording and storage equipment pertaining to issues of confidentiality.

Five faculty members who had interest in distance learning also participated in a focus group and provided appropriate feedback in the design of this instrument. They didn't receive any monetary compensation for their participation in this study.

Larger Project Discussion

The instrument was designed to be used as part of a larger project in which the principal investigator is Dr. Yvonne I. Larrier. The title of project is "*Investigating Student Attitudes*

Regarding Online Teaching of Core Master's Level Counseling Courses."

This project has a pre and post test component and the data will be completely collected by the end of Summer Session II, 2009.

Results

At this point the completed survey can be found at the following survey monkey link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=MXG1pJpx2gAspjnr5CltA_3d_3d

All students enrolled in any IUSB graduate counseling core online courses were invited to participate in this study. They were made aware that participation was completely voluntary and that they were able to withdraw from the study at any time.

Once the larger study(*"Investigating Student Attitudes Regarding Online Teaching of Core Master's Level Counseling Courses."*) is completed the results will be used to assess whether or not the potential exists for adding more online courses to the counseling department's online course offerings. The results will also help us determine the types of courses that can be developed as new online courses and improve existing courses.

The work that this assessment grant has started will continue as the investigator sees the need to improve on the instrument in order to collect additional and more relevant data.

The results of my assessment project will be shared with the Distance Learning Advisory Board at IUSB, the School of Education faculty and students and IUSB faculty who are interested in distance learning and those who may become interested in distance learning.