

Leveraging Onboarding Processes to Navigate New Instructor Engagement and Course Integrity at the University of Michigan

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In 2023, contingent faculty (adjuncts, lecturers) made up

68% of faculty positions



Increased reliance on adjunct instructors presents several challenges

For adjuncts, the challenges are:

- Insufficient notice before teaching assignments, and therefore limited preparation time
- Unfamiliarity with institutional resources

- Lack of robust communication, connection and support from the institution
- Difficulties mastering instructional technologies

For academic institutions, the challenges are determining how best to enhance:

- Instructor preparedness
- Course quality
- Student learning experiences

given that limited time between course assignment and start of the term, contract restrictions, organizational culture, and compensation, impact participation of adjunct instructors in training opportunities.







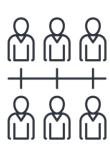
In 2019, UM SPH launched an online Master of Public Health (MPH) program



~60 online courses



~50 faculty + guest lecturers



6 departments



Developed over 4 years







After 3 years, some faculty rotated off of the online teaching roster

Some departments opted to enlist adjunct instructors to assume online teaching responsibilities.

Adjunct instructors are:

- Typically hired just prior to the start of the course
- Responsible for teaching a course designed by someone else and hosted on a LMS they may or may not have experience navigating



The hiring of adjunct instructors presented a new set of challenges ranging from:

Technical issues

E.g. Some instructors made changes that "broke" assignments, resulted in automatic grade calculation malfunctions, or otherwise created technical problems for students

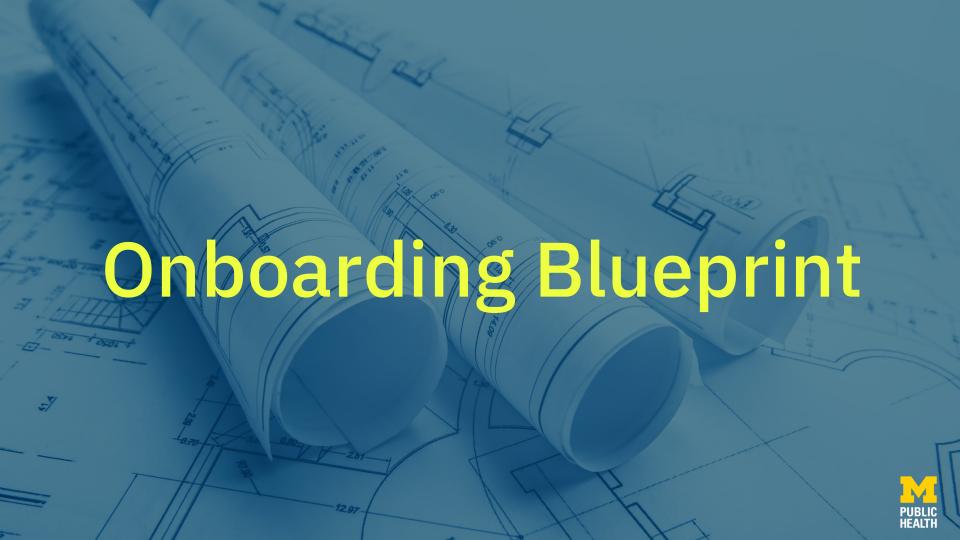
Lack of preparation

Online course content includes, on average, 65 readings, 33 video lectures each approximately 8 minutes long, and 31 assignments, requiring adjuncts to review and engage with a substantial amount of material within a limited timeframe. Student feedback highlighted adjuncts' perceived lack of preparedness, unfamiliarity with course content, and difficulty navigating the platform.

Course quality assurance issues

E.g. Some adjuncts made course changes within the platform that negated recent course updates completed by an Instructional Designer in preparation for the course offering





Broadly, our goals were three-fold

1

Enhance instructor preparation

- Introduce instructors to the course and the learning management system.
- Encourage familiarity with the course materials.
- Set expectations.

2

Provide support

- Provide institutional resources and introduce support structures.
- Empower instructors, through guidance and support, to effectively engage with content created by others.

3

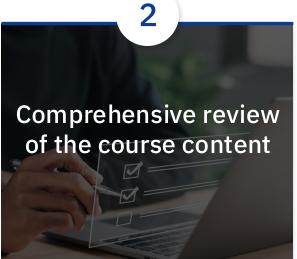
Uphold the integrity and standards of the program

- Outline responsibilities.
- Foster instructor ownership of the course while upholding the integrity and standards of the program.
- Enhance the experiences of both new appointed instructors and their students.



We designed a 3-part onboarding process







This process was designed to help new instructors understand the course, its content, and available support structures in order to deliver a high-quality learning experience



Director of Online Learning kicks off onboarding with a meeting to outline the process



New Instructor Onboarding for HBEHED 671

The new instructor orbitation process series to asset instructors assigned to teach an online course phenicusly developed by another instructor. Quidance and support on how to engage with content created by others above new instructors to focus efforts on gaining matery of the course content in preparation for the course start. Setting clear expectations provides a better expenses for the newly assigned instructors as well as the student. The process deep encourages instructors to take ownership of the course while at the same time maintain course integrity and program standards.

The Instructional Services fearn works closely with new instructors in greparation for course delivery. Below you will find an outline of the instructor responsibilities as well as the responsibilities of the instructional Services learn.

Instructor Responsibilities

- Complete a detailed review of each component of the course by completing the onboarding checklist provided by the Instructional Services (IS) team
 - Review at assessments
 - Review all video lectures.
 - Review all course reading materials.
 - The purpose of this review is to identify errors, check for gaps in content or areas in which content needs to be updated, and check for alignment between assessments, lecture content, and learning objectives
- Meet regularly with the IS team
- . Communicate regularly with 15 team
- · Meet course prep deadlines

Instructional Services Responsibilities

- . Review courses prior to meeting with instructor to identify possible revisions.
- Prioritize revisions based on amount of time between initial meeting with new instructor and course start date
- · Meet regularly with the instructor
- Explain the approval process for the implementation of any changes or the use of new tools

Contacts

For questions about the Coursers platform and technical support, contact the instructional Services team member assigned to work with you to prepare the course. This course has been assigned to Jeanna Kovacevich, <u>ponnas (burich edu</u>.

For questions regarding student related matters, contact Lisa Garber at <u>flotch@urrich.edu</u>. Academic Program Manager.

For other questions, contact Kim Lucius at <u>Munich adu</u>. Assistant Director for Online Programs.



DOL also provides a detailed course outline to the new instructor



HBEHED 671 Motivational Interviewing in Public Health

Course Format

- . B weeks, Winter term (second half), 555 section (online students) March 4 - April 26, 2023
- · Instructor holds weekly class meetings via Zoom
- HEEHED scheduled to meet on Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 pm
- · Course content is housed and accessed through the Coursera platform e. Sign up for a Coursera account using your University of Michigan email address.
- by visting Coursers org and clicking Join for Free The grading format for this course is passiful.

Course Description

This course will provide you with the knowledge and skills to help you become an effective dincian and communicator through motivational interviewing. We'll teach you key skills such as reflective listening and eliciting change talk, and give you ample opportunities to practice with both your classimates and a standardized patient at the end of the course.

This course is the second course in a series of health behavior/health education electives that comprise the Health Bahavior Methods and Skills graduate certificate offered to students in the online Population and Health Sciences program: Many of the students enrolled will have completed HEEHED 597 Clear Health Communication during the previous 8 weeks.

Syllabus

Course Content

Course content housed on the Coursera stafform includes the following

- -5 videos 5ed to weekly reflection assignments completed via Perusali
- -3 readings tied to weekly reflection assignments completed via Perusal. — 9 assignments
 - Refections completed using Perusial
 - Reflections scored via natural language processing (NLP)
 - Standard potient intensiew
 - o. Peer review

 - e Final mom (quiz)

Enrollment

This course is open to students enrolled in the online MPH program in Population and Health

Residential Student Enrollment

This course is restricted to online MPH students. Residential students can be permitted into the course under rare circumstances. Please forward residential student requests to Kim Luzius -Muclus@umich.edu.

Online MPH Student Profile

- · Full-time working professionals
 - Typical career fields include the following:
 - Healthcare e.g., nurses, physicians, physical therapists, occupational **Processists**
 - · Health research
 - Non-profits
 - Veterinary medicine
 - · Public health · Political and social research
- . Average age = 31
- Average GPA from highest degree earned 3.4

Program Expectations

The majority of the students in the online program work full time. As a result of their busy schedules, students may request deadline extensions. We ask that instructors work with students who need an extension.

Weekly Zoom Sessions

Students are expected to attend the weekly Zoom sessions. Occasionally, students will be unable to attend. All sessions are to be recorded and made available for students unable to attend.

Stack is a cloud-based instant messaging and collaboration system. You will be added to the Slack channel set up specifically for this online course and provided with documentation that describes the way in which we use Slack to build community and maintain an open line of



PART 2

The instructor is then tasked with reviewing the course using the provided course content checklist

A	В	С	D	E
	I have reviewed	I have questions	I'd like to make changes	Explanation
Syllabus				
Instructor information	Not yet ▼	•	•	
Office hours	Not yet ▼	•	•	
Class schedule	Not yet ▼	•	•	
Competencies & learning objectives	Not yet ▼	•	•	
Assignments	Not yet ▼	•	•	
Grading formula	Not yet ▼	•	•	
Due dates	Not yet ▼	•	•	
Course policies	Not yet ▼	•	•	
Instructional tools				
	Not yet ▼	•	~	
+ ≡ Course logistics rev	view ▼ Week 1	▼ Week 2 ▼	Week3 ▼	Week 4 ▼ Week 5 ▼ Week 6 ▼



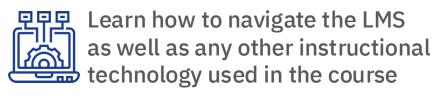
The checklist was designed to nudge instructors to review every item in the course and sign off on it or flag errors or changes needed

A	8	С	0	E	F	G	н	1	J	К	L
Module	Week 1: Course Overview										
Description	This unit will provide an introduction to social	epidemiology, t	e social determi	nants of health fra	mework, and the	concept of health of	fisparities.				
Learning Objectives	Define core concepts of social epidemiology										
	Distinguish between health inequalities and he										
	Describe the role of data in social epidemiolog										
			VIDEOS		READINGS			ASSIG	NMENTS		NOTES
		I viewed this	Video is free	Video content	I reviewed this		I reviewed the				
Item type	Title	video	of errors	is up to date	reading	needed?	instructions	is free of errors	grading criteria	needed?	
Lesson 1: Course int	roduction										
Video	Instructor Introduction	Not yet ▼	-	*							
Video	Course Welcome	Not yet ▼	-	*							
Reading	Course Syllabus				Not yet ▼	*					
Reading	Guide to Course Assignments				Not yet -	-					
Lesson 2: Introducti	on to Social Epidemiology										
Video	Unit Overview	Not yet ▼									
	Define Core Concepts of Social										
Video	Epidemiology/Social Determinants of Health	Not yet ▼	-	*							
Video	Measuring Health Disparities	Not yet ▼	-	*							
Perusall	Rose (1985) and Braveman (2014)				Not yet ▼	*					
	The Role of Data in Measuring Health										
Video	Disparities	Not yet ▼	-	*							
	Controversies in Health Inequities: Relative										
Video	changes and absolute differences (Part 1)	Not yet ▼	•	•							
Ungraded Plugin	Watch: Deaths of Despair	Not yet ▼	•	•							
Video	Controversies in Health Inequities: Relative changes and absolute differences (Part 2)	Not yet *									
Perusali		Not yet •	•	•	Manual	_					
	Case & Deaton (2015) and Diez Roux (2017)	Motunt -			Not yet ▼						
Video	Stakeholders and Agents Recommended: NIMHD Factsheet and Table	Not yet ▼	•	•							
Reading	on Research				Not yet ▼						
Video	Introduce Leading Health Indicators and Population Health Data Report Assignment	Not yet ▼	•	•							
Assignment	Population Health Data Report on Tobacco Use						Not yet ▼	-	-		
Video	Introduction to Policy Briefs	Not yet .		-							
Assignment	Review Sample Policy Briefs						Not yet ▼				

Once the course review is complete, the instructor connects with an Instructional Services team member to:



Review and discuss any notes or issues flagged by the instructor in the course review checklist



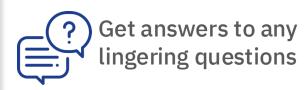


Discuss pedagogical approaches if desired





Create a timeline to finalize the course site





PART 3

Course preparation is multi-faceted and requires collaborative planning

COURSE	SESSION INSTRU	INSTRUCTOR	UPDATES	STATUS										UPDATES	NEEDED	
Course Update Details available in Rule Book							CHECK	COURSE INSTRUCTOR SET	INSTRUCTOR INTRODUCTION VIDEO	COURSE SETTINGS UPDATED	WELCOME MESSAGE UPDATED	SYLLABUS UPDATED	READING CITATIONS	UPLOAD ACCESSIBLE POFs	UPDATED ACTIVITIES, ASSESSMENTS & RUBRICS	PLAGIARISM CHECKER REMOVED
EHS 570 - REV			Joanna	Completed		2	2	•	No Update Needed -	•	■	✓	■	in progress	2	
EHS 597 - REV			Joanna	Completed	3				No Update Needed •	₩.	✓	~		In progress	•	
EPID 594 - REV			Joanna	Completed	-	✓	✓		New Video(s) Needed -	■	✓			Completed		
HBEHED 620 - REV	Launch: April 22	in 42257260	Joanna	Completed			■		New Video(s) Updated					Not done - new readings	■	
HMP 610 - REV	Open: April 29		Frederique	In Progress	٠	■	₽		No Update Needed •		■	~		Completed	☑	■
EHS 601	Start May 5		Joanna	Completed		₩.	₩.		No Update Needed •	₩.	✓	~	~	Done except 3 scans	2	
EPID 590			Frederique	In Progress	T	2	■	2	New Video(s) Needed -	■	✓	~	■	Complete		■
HBEHED 590			Frederique	in Progress	٠				New Video(x) Updated			•		Complete	■	
HMP 603			Frederique	In Progress	+	₩.	■		No Update Needed •	■	2	✓		Didnt get done	2	₩.
PUBHLTH 516			Victoria	In Progress	*	~	✓	2	No Update Needed •	✓	~	~		Completed		
EHS 596 - REV			Joanna	Completed		₩.			No Update Needed -	■ .	✓			Completed	✓	✓
EPID 595 - REV			Joanna	Completed	3	~	✓		No Update Needed -	₩.	~	~	~	Completed	~	
HBEHED 530 - REV			Joanna	Completed	-	✓	✓	•	New Video(s) Needed -	■	~	~		Completed	2	Z 1
HMP 669 - REV			Victoria	in Progress	*	✓	~		No Update Needed •	✓	~			No PDF Readings		
EHS 591	Open: June 24		Joanna	Completed	-	₩.	₩.	2	No Update Needed •	■	■			Completed	2	2 /
EPID 591	Start July 1	01120	Frederique	Completed	100		•	•	No Update Needed -				•	Completed	•	
HBEHED 591			Joanna	in Progress	*		•	•	New Video(s) Updated			•		Completed	•	•
HMP 654 + Canvas 777 section		10027115	Joanna	Completed		2	□	. ☑	No Update Needed •			■ 2		No POF Readings	- 22	. ■



											QUALITY CHECK		
$\frac{1}{2}$	RESOURCES REMOVED / UNPUBLISHED	REPLACE READERS WITH LECTURE PACKET	LTIS UPDATE	D	IMAGE DESCRIPTION AVAILABLE		GRADEBOOK SETUP	ZOOM SESSIONS SCHEDULED	FINAL DUE DATE CHECK	CHECK BY	COMPLETED	ISSUES RESOLVED	REVISIONS NEEDED
	\sim	~	No LTIs	÷	No Images	÷	✓	~	\checkmark				
	\checkmark	\checkmark	No LTIs	*	No Images	*	\checkmark	\sim	\sim				
	~	~	No LTIs	٠		*	\checkmark	~	✓				us Fear' text now
h	ightharpoons	~	Updated	*	Completed	*	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark				
	\sim	~	No LTIs	۳	Needs Work	+	✓	~					
6	√ ⊠	\checkmark	No LTIs	*	Completed	*	\checkmark	\sim	\sim				
	~	~	Updated	٠	Needs Work	*	~	\checkmark	\checkmark				
	\checkmark	~	No LTIs	*	Completed	*	$\overline{\mathbf{z}}$	\checkmark	$\overline{\mathbf{z}}$				
	$\overline{\mathbf{z}}$	~	No LTIs	٠	No Images	*	✓		✓				
\sum	~	~	No LTIs	٠	No Images	*	\checkmark						
	~	~	Updated	*		*	✓	~	✓				
	\checkmark	~	No LTIs	*	Completed	*	~	~					
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	\checkmark	\checkmark	No LTIs	*	Needs Work	+	✓	`					
)	~	~	No LTIs	۳	No Images	*	~	\checkmark	\checkmark				
5	$ \mathbf{Z} $		Updated	-	No Images	*		_ ✓	$ \mathbf{Z} $				Course Welcome video need to be updated
4	☑		No LTIs	·	Needs Work		\mathbf{z}	☑	≥		0		Complete: Pull in-video question out into separat submission
\rangle	~		No LTIs	~	No Images	v	\mathbf{z}	✓					

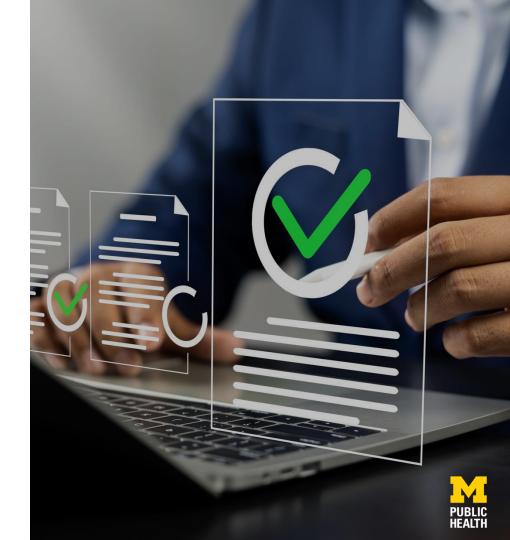


Impact Assessment



Instructors who had time were more likely to complete the course audit and were better prepared as a result

"I was able to dedicate time to preparing for the course prior to the course start. This helped me to be better prepared."



"The instructor seemed well prepared for class meetings."

Course evaluation scores pertaining to level of preparedness for new instructors participating in the onboarding process were comparable to the scores of instructors who developed and taught the course.

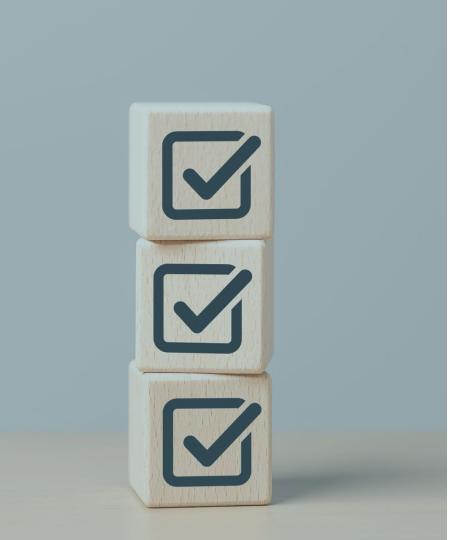
Average score for **new instructors**

4.8

Average score for instructors who developed the course

5.0





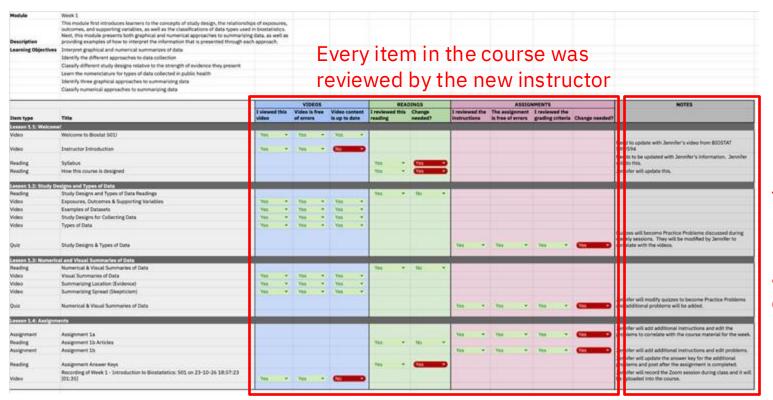
The checklist is an effective tool

"It helped me to stay organized as I checked the existing course shell. I liked how every module/ chapter was broken down into its specific component. On account of that, I did not overlook any of the items that required attention. It was easy for instructional technology consultant and I to track everything as we made the relevant changes for the course."

"I even used the checklist while teaching the course. Because the checklist was set up by week, I was able to easily find the upcoming week's content and assignments and review them in preparation for class."



Instructors were able to do a thorough review of the course prior to the course start



The new instructor made notes and proposed changes



Knowing who to contact is half the battle

"I may have overused the instructional technology consultant. This was the first time teaching a course on this LMS, so I had a lot of questions and the technology didn't always work as expected."

"Given my experiences at other institutions, U-M support staff have been outstanding in providing guidance and the necessary support to make my teaching online a very positive experience. The system worked very well for me."



The Instructional Services team also benefits from this onboarding process



Course site preparation is smoother



The need for technical troubleshooting when the course is live has decreased, in large part because instructors now make any needed changes to assignments before the launch of the course



Instructors know who to reach out to if they need help or have questions, so any issues can be addressed proactively or very quickly and efficiently





Discussion

What parts of our onboarding process might work for you?

What parts need to be tweaked to work for your particular organization?

What challenges do you face that you're struggling to address when it comes to onboarding new instructors?

What aspects of your current onboarding process are running smoothly?







Takeaways

1

Having a process is worthwhile, it has a positive impact on preparedness and course quality.

"Having a system to review documents/ videos and the opportunity to revamp was very helpful."

2

It made for a better experience for adjunct faculty, as well as for program support staff.

3

Timing is key.

Z

Explore other ways to offer support when just-in-time hiring is unavoidable.





Future Iterations



- Consider adding information addressing common questions from new instructors, such as grading policies, handling student accommodation requests, and managing absent students
- Consider adding training on best practices for running effective/ engaging synchronous class meetings



Presentation and onboarding templates





Contact



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