

Part 1: A Brief Abstract

Leda Nath, Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice Department, UW-Whitewater

Penny Ralston-Berg, Continuing Education Outreach and E-Learning (formally known as Learning Innovations/UW Extension)

TITLE: Examining Online Course Quality Design Features: What Student's Find Most and Least Valuable

This project is descriptive and designed to re-examine Quality Design Features for online courses as defined by MarylandOnline, Inc., in their 3-year FIPSE grant project. This organization conducted extensive research to identify from the *instructor's* perspective key online course features of value and to provide guidelines for online course development. This research asks *students* whether they too find such features of use, and also identifies which are more valuable than others, and which (if any) correlate with various factors related to student learning, such as satisfaction, anxiety, commitment, and time management. Using a quantitative survey design, a random sample of 1,500 students who were at least 18 years of age were selected from enrolled Spring 2007 UW-Whitewater students. Also a second and third random sample will be drawn from UW-Green Bay and UW-Milwaukee during Fall 2007/Spring 2008. Students are all contacted via their university e-mail account and provided with a hyperlink to take them to the online consent document and then if they consent, the online survey. Information about this research was presented as a poster at the Spring 2007 OPID conference, and results will be written up and submitted to a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning journal for review for publication.

WTF 06-07