

Benchmarks for Online Course Quality and Continuous Improvement

Instructional Designers and Online Course & Materials Developers

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Instructional Design ar Pedagogy Tools

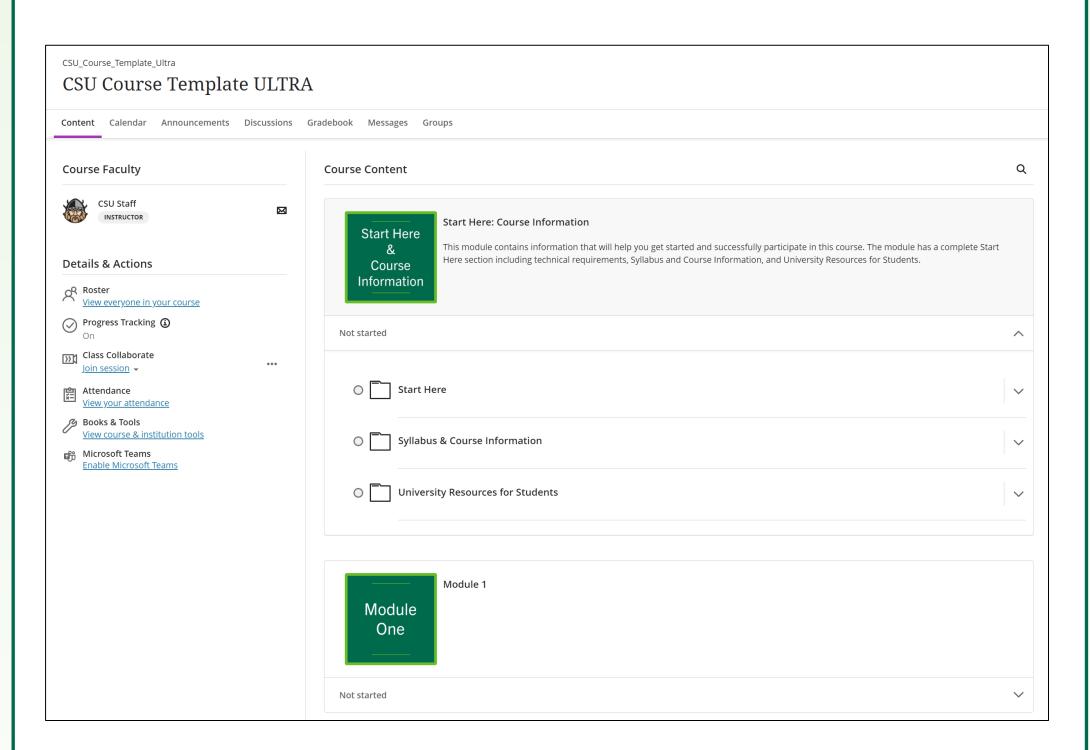
Purpose

This process aims to elevate a course's design to its highest level, with the goal of fostering continuous improvement of online courses.

Benefits of this structured process are improved student outcomes, easier course management for instructors, reduced workload on course copies, improved evaluation of course's effectiveness, and a consistent student experience.

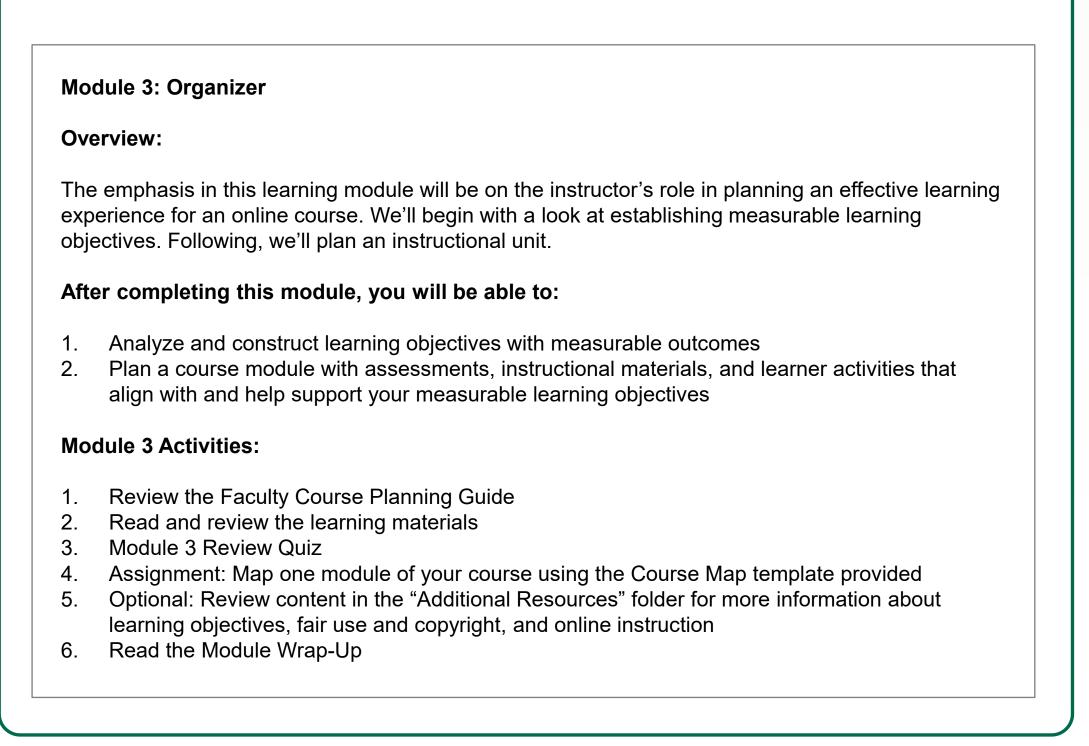
Level 1: Initiating

 The course utilizes the CSU Course Template, customized to the instructor, using Learning Modules or folders for content organized by modules.



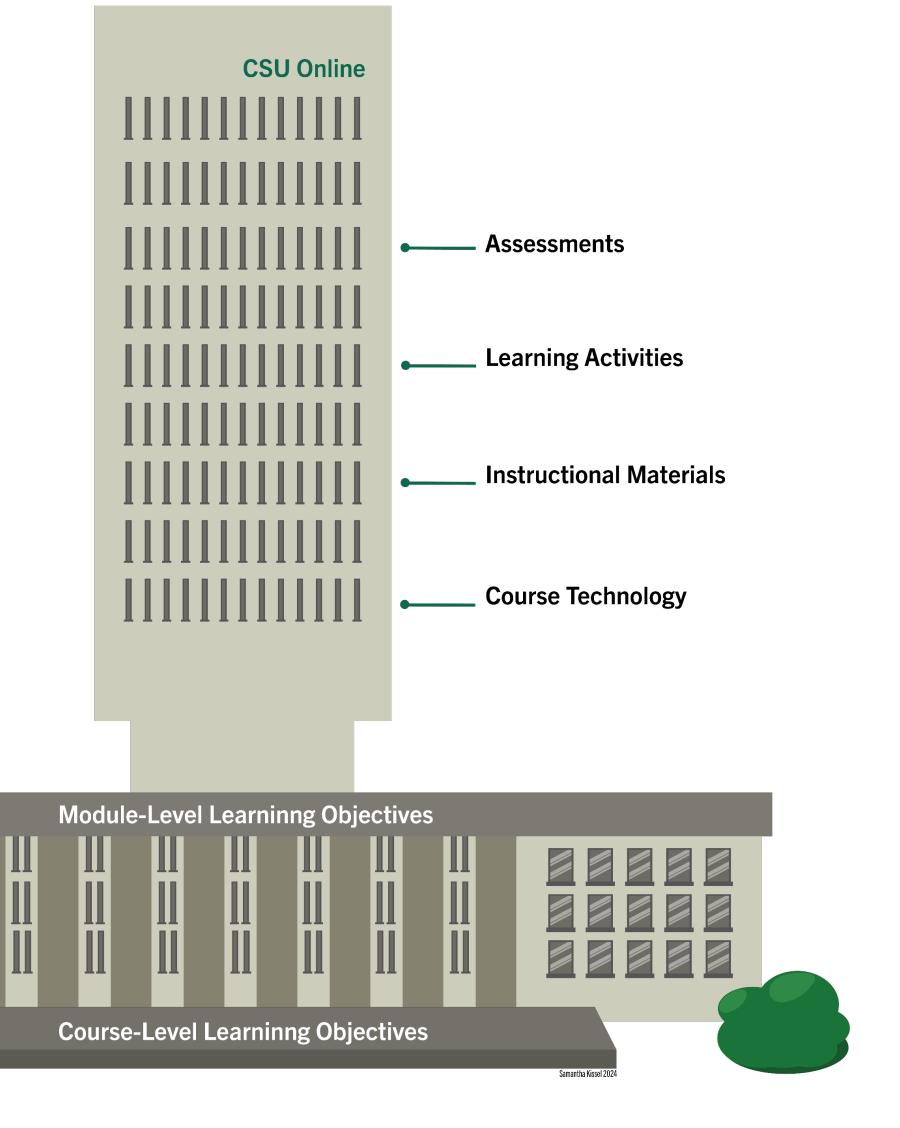
Level 2: Progressing

 Module Organizers present in each module stating MLOs and module to-do list

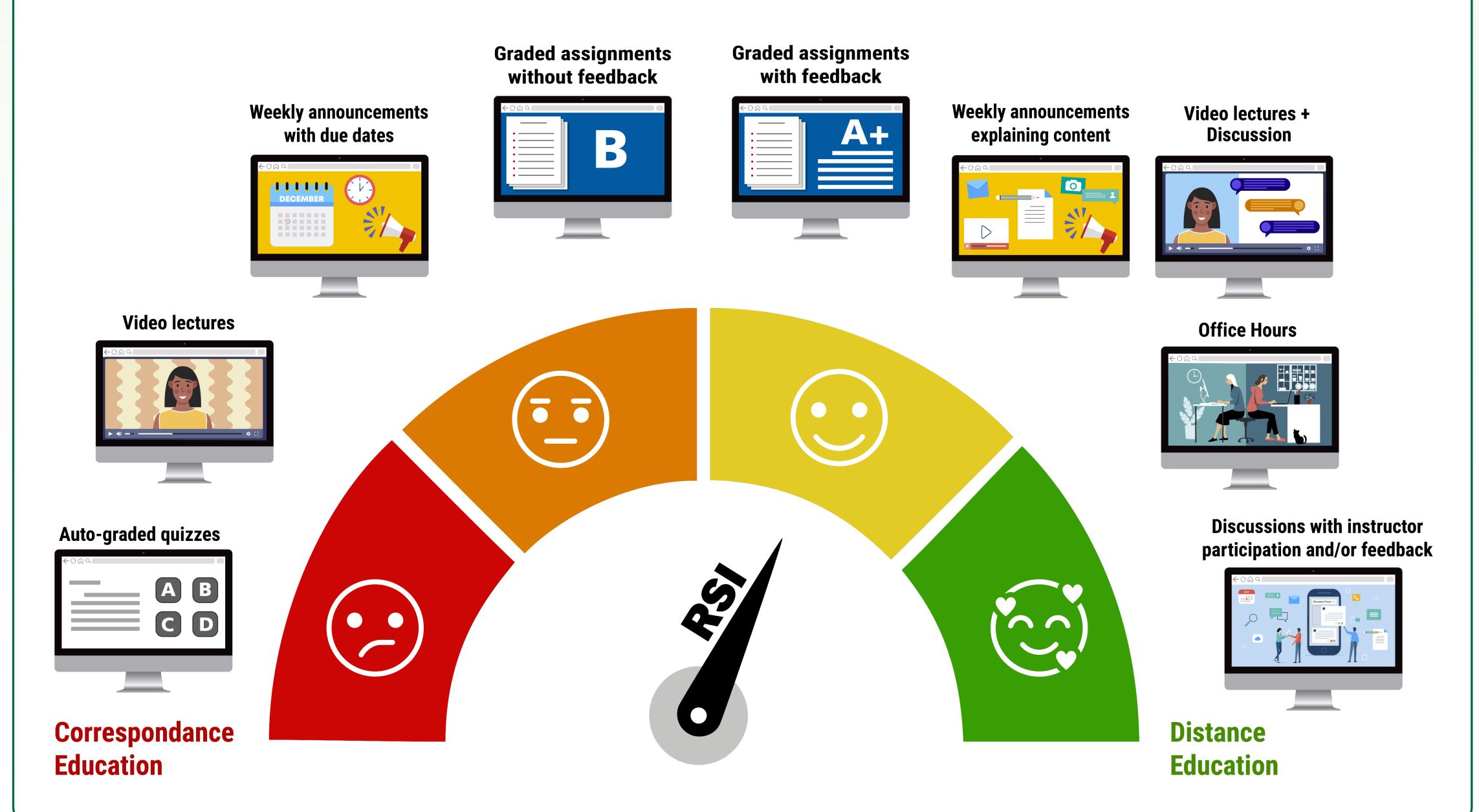


Level 3: Achieving Course Alignment Map Complete

- The course has measurable learning objectives
- Alignment is when the course's assessments, instructional materials, learning activities, and technology support the achievement of the learning objectives. This is implemented fully in the course.
- The course is well organized and adheres to the template.



Instructor Has a Plan for Regular and Substantive Interaction with Students



Level 4: Mastering

 Course ready for official QM Review including meeting Text-based accessibility standards

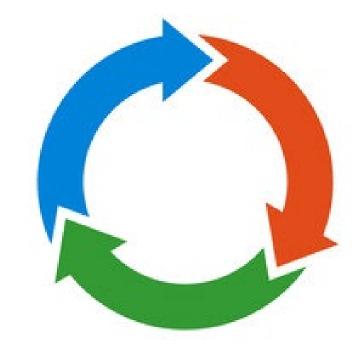


Level 5: Exceeding

The course has been QM-certified or re-certified



Ongoing: Continuous Improvement Cycle



The course has now been taught a few times and changes should be revisited to see how they fit into the course as it was originally certified or intended. This could mean potential changes to the course map, assignments, activities and materials, and teaching strategies. If not pursuing an official QM Review, this Continuous Improvement Cycle is essential to maintaining course quality.