



Initiative Overview

June 22, 2020

Led by the USM's William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation with generous support from University of Maryland Global Campus, USM *OnTrack* aims to expand high-quality online learning as USM institutions head into fall 2020, with an eye toward sustaining and building upon these improvements beyond the fall. This will be accomplished through two phases of work focused on resource-sharing, faculty/staff professional development, and instructional design and technology capacity-building.

Phase 1: Short-term Preparation and Support for Fall Semester (June 2020 through Dec 2020):

1. Expand USM institutions' ability to quickly and strategically scale online solutions for fall 2020.
2. Create a more robust virtual learning experience in the fall semester for students, particularly those who have struggled in the shift to remote learning.

Phase 2: Long-term Support to Build Resilience and Address Ongoing Impact (June 2020 through Dec 2021):

1. Build the digital infrastructure needed to create optimally effective learning environments for student success, regardless of delivery method.
2. Support USM institutions in making proactive and strategic use of online/hybrid/hyflex delivery models to address student needs, including upskilling/reskilling for a changing job market.

For phase 1, the following supports have been identified to meet the needs of USM institutions:

"Ready-to-Adopt" Online Courses (UMGC)

USM *OnTrack* is helping USM institutions to accelerate their online transition strategy through the temporary adoption of UMGc courses for delivery to their students this fall. Host institutions will identify candidate courses and create a "friction free" process in which students register at the host institution, as usual.

Adaptive Courseware for High-enrollment Courses (Lumen Learning/Online Learning Initiative)

USM *OnTrack* is supporting efforts to enhance high-enrollment (large lecture, multi-section) courses through the use of adaptive courseware, which promises to boost student interaction with course content and allow faculty to facilitate application of learning through active, problem-based, online pedagogies.

Virtual Reality Technologies for Lab-based Courses (Labster)

USM *OnTrack* is providing faculty training and inter-institutional coordination to use Labster's virtual reality technologies in lab-based courses. These tools promise to provide sufficiently high-fidelity simulations for learning lab techniques and inquiry skills, particularly for lower-level lab courses.

Instructional Design Support Services (iDesign)

USM *OnTrack* is contracting with iDesign to provide a pool of instructional design service hours that institutions can use as needed for individual faculty support and/or course development for those courses they choose to convert themselves.

Professional Development Workshops (Quality Matters/Kirwan Center)

USM *OnTrack* is presenting a series of online teaching professional development workshops led by Quality Matters and the Kirwan Center, including designing for learner engagement, setting expectations with students, diversity and inclusion, accessibility, and rethinking assessments for academic integrity.

For more information, please contact the USM Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation at cai@usmd.edu.