



Tri-C's Massive Open Online Course Earns National Distinction

Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C®) was the first community college in the nation to launch a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) – free online classes to help high school students pass developmental math, also known as remedial math, before they enter college.

Tri-C's MOOC was also the first in the nation to earn Quality Matters™ recognition through QM's Continuing & Professional Education Program.

Quality Matters, a leader in quality assurance for online course design, uses a peer-based approach for continuous improvement in online education and student learning. The QM rubric focuses on the course design exploring key standards such as course navigation, alignment of learning outcomes, resources and assignments, and course technology.

To earn this recognition, a course must meet all of the 23 QM Continuing and Professional Education Rubric essential standards and receive a minimum of 85% of all the standards. They are then eligible to carry the QM recognition mark that is specific to the QM Rubric version used in the course review. The Tri-C MOOC significantly exceeded these expectations.

“This recognition speaks to the caliber of the collaboration between the faculty subject matter experts, and the high level of expertise of the instructional design team,” said Danielle Budzick, district director, Innovative Learning Design & Quality in the Office of eLearning and Innovation at Cuyahoga Community College.

The MOOC, originally available in spring semester 2013 through four 4-week sessions, is now openly available as a self-enroll course “Pre-Algebra CCC Open Enrollment” at no cost to students of all ages including middle-school students working ahead at Pre-Algebra, high school students preparing for college readiness, and middle-aged workers returning to college to prepare for a new career.

Learn more about Tri-C's MOOC at www.tri-c.edu/MOOC. All course content and materials can be found at <https://tric.coursesites.com/>

MOOCs were first embraced and promoted by Ivy League institutions and have expanded to other institutions. Tri-C's MOOC is a first for the College and was developed with help from the Gates Foundation to attack the problems of unprepared college students. Nationwide, more than a third of entering college students are required to take developmental math before they are allowed to take the college-level courses needed to obtain their associate and bachelor's degrees.

This course was developed using an innovative design to improve student engagement. The MOOC leverages game mechanics to motivate student's progress through the course. In order to move to each level, the student must score 80% or better. If they do not score appropriately, they can go back to watch the videos and take the challenge again. They may do so as many times as needed, creating a unique, low-risk failure environment.



Tri-C's developmental math MOOC was enabled through generous funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

"MOOCs are an exciting innovation. They hold great promise, but are not without challenges – and we are still discovering their full potential," said Dan Greenstein, director of Postsecondary Success at the Gates Foundation. "We believe having diverse options for faculty and students that meet a wide array of learning needs and styles can enhance student engagement, improve educational outcomes, and increase college completion rates. We are eager to learn from and share the data that will be generated from these investments in MOOCs."

The Gates Foundation grant to Tri-C was one of 10 grants awarded last year to institutions to determine whether MOOCs can be adapted for developmental and introductory courses. The grants are also designed to make such content available and accessible to a broader range of learners and to see how they might be integrated into classroom practice in order to support completion and lower costs.