Assessment Grant Initiative Implementation Report

Awardees of all grants are asked to share their assessment projects/pilots and results with the greater UMaine community. Therefore, we are asking awardees to submit a brief summary of their findings to OIRA the year following their award. Please complete the form below and give a summary of your findings. This summary should be less than 500 words.

If you were funded for an assessment project, please report on the results of the project, any challenges encountered during implementation, and future plans.

If you were funded for a Brightspace course pilot, please reflect upon the experience, including the benefits and challenges of implementation, and future plans for rolling out your use of the learning outcomes tools. These summaries will be posted on the OIRA website.

Title of Proposal:	Brightspace Pilot
Department or Program:	Maine Business School
Faculty Member(s) or Staff Member(s):	Faculty Memeber
Academic Rank or Title:	Assistant Professor of Operations Management
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Project Summary (500 words or less):

Brightspace's Learning Outcomes tool provides an innovative approach to track and help understand how students meet the desired learning outcomes. The summary provides insights into the setup, benefits, and challenges encountered using this feature for the pilot program.

Setting up Learning Outcomes:

The setup process is straightforward, accessed via Course Admin – Assessment – Learning Outcomes, and is available for future reuse. It provides a convenient way for instructors to integrate learning outcomes into their courses, thus allowing more focus on instructional strategies and interactive learning.

The Learning Outcomes tool offers detailed insights, with functionalities such as the Mastery View under Assessments – Grades, utilizing a color scheme to represent students' mastery levels. The visual representation is a quick reference for instructors to understand and adjust their teaching strategies based on students' needs.

Benefits:

The primary benefit of this tool is its ability to streamline the process for instructors to assess learning goals at both course and program levels. The tool can potentially enhance the data collection process for course and program assessments by reducing manual labor and making it more accessible to every faculty member. Moreover, it enables instructors to pinpoint the areas where students require additional support and guidance, ensuring that learning needs are met more effectively.

Challenges:

However, the tool poses several significant challenges. Integrating the tool with publisher contents proves intricate, restricting the range and diversity of learning materials available. There is also a lack of granularity in representing mastery levels derived from quiz results, leading to potential inconsistencies and inaccuracies in assessing learning outcomes. The deficiency in detail complicates the accurate evaluation of students' mastery levels. Lastly, exporting Mastery View data is not user-friendly and hinders the efficient use of the compiled data for in-depth analysis and enhancement of learning strategies.

Conclusion:

     The Learning Outcomes tool in Brightspace is a notable advancement in educational technology, offering benefits like a clear depiction of mastery levels and improved data collection for assessments. However, it comes with inherent challenges, such as the complexity of integrating publisher contents, insufficient granularity in quiz results, and obstacles in exporting Mastery View data, all of which require thoughtful refinement.

     To fully reap the benefits of the tool and to ensure precise and equitable assessments, it is imperative to address these challenges and enhance the overall learning experiences it facilitates. By investing effort in optimizing this tool, we will facilitate rich and insightful learning experiences, meeting the diverse needs of students in our rapidly evolving educational environment.

Signature of Applicant: *Lizao Zhang*

Date: 09/28/2023