Self-Led Online Courses (UTC Courses 1-8) Process & Evaluation

Our Team

Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme	Administration
United States Department of State	Funding
Global Centre for Credentialing and Certification	Subject matter export and coordination
Banyan	Online Curriculum Developer
HealtheKnowledge	Learning Management System
ISSUP	Promotion and Registration

Our Framework

All content is built using the UTC 1-8 Training Manuals.
Content is designed around the fundamental best practices for
online learning:

- Course Goals
- Learning Objectives
- Interactive Learning Activities
- Assessments

- Reflective exercises
- Knowledge checks
- Journaling

Learner Centered Design

Course design complies with 508 requirements of universal design to accommodate accessibility and inclusivity. The learner is at the center of all decisions to ensure engagement, consistency and authenticity.   Diversity is built throughout every course by developing case studies and examples to touch every culture. The learner will see themselves reflected at some point in the course.

Workflow

The project began in 2018 with the selection of the Online Curriculum Developer (Banyan) through a worldwide competitive RFP process. The branding and color scheme evolved from the universal concept of a tapestry where local colors and cultures could be woven into a thread that moves throughout the user experiencing - tying in key concepts and stitching together local experiences. Each course is reviewed and revised three times after initial creation. The quality checks along the way ensure adherence to best practices, culturally centered content and accurate terminology.

Timeline

Sometimes you begin with the end in mind, our first course to launch was UTC 8 - Ethics on 4 August 2021. Since then, five UTC courses are live. The pandemic accelerated the need for online learning, and we have met that challenge.

Assessment & Evaluation

Each course has a pre- and post-test to evaluate the learner's knowledge before and after they move through the content of each course. There are also quizzes at the end of each module testing the learner's understanding of key concepts, which they will need to demonstrate when pursuing a credential or certification. Learners can acquire continuing education credits (CEs) after receiving a cumulative score of 80% from the course tests. Module test questions are pulled from a test bank to ensure integrity.

Worldwide Impact

In nine months, individuals from 106 counties have registered for Self-Led Online Courses. Individuals from every continent are signing up to learn how to be better professionals from self-improvement to certification. While internet access and language can be a barrier for learners to complete courses, the content can be downloaded for offline access and translation into other languages is underway.
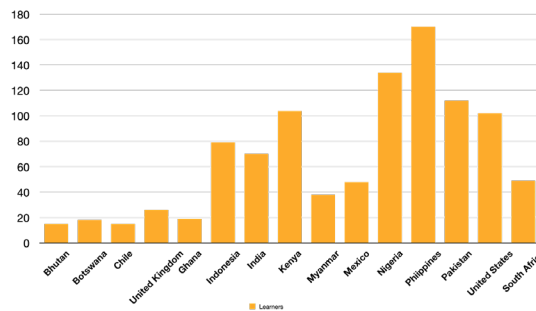

Completion Rates
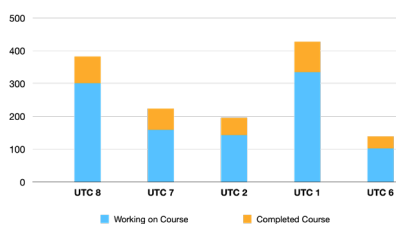
While online learning has been around for three decades, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) have a completion rate of 5-15%. The Self-Led UTC courses have a 27-41% completion rate. There have been 1,040 registered learners with 339 completing the courses for a 33% completion rate. This is a very strong result. A survey conducted to better understand reasons why people did not complete a course found that some struggled with the online format, but the majority planned to complete the course within the month.

Learning Results

A pre-test was required before entering the first module of a course and a post-test was required when completing a course. The average (mean) and the median score of learners were very close, meaning most learners came to the courses with similar knowledge and there change in knowledge was equally moved.
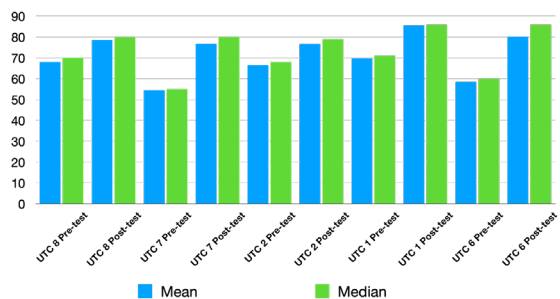
Summary

Developing a more educated workforce of professionals in the field of substance use disorder treatment is a critical goal. Preliminary results provide promise that online learners are accessing the course in all areas of the globe, are increasing their knowledge, and are becoming more proficient across multiple subjects. While barriers exist that may inhibit learners from completing courses, they are not insurmountable. Data will continue to be collected to improve content and outcomes. It is evident that professionals are using the courses to improve their skills, complete training

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requirements, and study for certification.