Curriculum Linking Matrices

Purpose

The benefit of curriculum mapping is to see where the broad outcomes student needs when they exit the program (such as program outcomes, core abilities, or external standards) are being addressed in your courses.

Curriculum Matrices:

- Provide a visual representation of your program and allow you to see how your students progress through your curriculum
- Validates the cohesiveness of your program
- Shows connections between important pieces of the curriculum—outcomes we expect from students and courses students take to learn the outcome
- Give you an opportunity to see if your students have adequate opportunities to be introduced to the material, practice the material, and finally, master the material
- Identify places where the curriculum can be strengthened.

Questions Curriculum Matrices can Help You Answer

- Do students get adequate practice in a skill before they are expected to demonstrate mastery? Should faculty restructure one or more courses to improve the frequency and depth of practice that students encounter for some learning outcomes?
- Are the learning outcomes addressed in a logical order that allows students to progress from novice to greater levels of expertise?
- Do all required courses contribute to one or more program-level student learning outcomes?

Points to Consider

1. Not every course is going to link to every outcome. It makes sense that capstone courses, final clinical courses, internships etc. might link to all outcomes—but otherwise, courses will typically link to a selection of the outcomes.
2. Every outcome needs to be linked to at least one course. If an outcome is not linked—how will students learn or master it?
3. More linking isn't necessarily better. Linking everything, everywhere does very little to help you use the map to make decisions.

Curriculum Linking Matrices Activity Sheet

1. Discuss this Core Ability curriculum map.

   - Does it make sense?
   - Is it useful for program review? Why or why not?
   - How could it be strengthened?
   - What would you recommend to the program faculty?

Assign Core Abilities to Courses
* Denotes an associated course

Core Abilities	RAD100 SAMPLE: Intro to Radiography	RAD150 SAMPLE: Radiography Positioning I	RAD160 SAMPLE: Radiography Positioning 2	RAD200 SAMPLE: Radiography Patient Care and Education 1
Behave ethically	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced
Communicate effectively	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced
Cultivate global and cultural awareness	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced
Demonstrate social interaction	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced
Develop self-awareness	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced
Think critically	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced
Use mathematics	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced
Use science and technology	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced	Introduced

Discuss this Program Outcome matrix.

   - Does it make sense? Is it useful for program review? Why or why not?
   - What does this matrix tell you about the program?
   - What recommendations would you make to the program faculty?

Program Outcomes Course Assignment Matrix

Program Outcomes	RAD100: SAMPLE: Intro to Radiography	RAD150: SAMPLE: Radiography Positioning I	RAD160: SAMPLE: Radiography Positioning 2	RAD200: SAMPLE: Radiography Patient Care and Education 1	RAD250: SAMPLE: Radiography Image Production	RAD300: SAMPLE: Computed Tomography Introduction	RAD750: SAMPLE: CT Clinical	RAD825: SAMPLE: Clinical Experience 2	RAD850: SAMPLE: Clinical Experience 3
Perform diagnostic imaging procedures		Introduced	Practiced		Practiced	Practiced		Practiced	Assessed
Produce diagnostic images		Introduced			Practiced	Practiced		Practiced	Assessed
Practice radiation protection for the patient, self and others	Introduced	Practiced	Practiced		Practiced			Practiced	Assessed
Provide safe, efficient, and supportive patient care									
Model professional and ethical behavior consistent with the A.R.R.T. Code of Ethics	Introduced							Practiced	Assessed

How to Create Curriculum Matrices in WIDS

1. Navigate to http://matc.wids.org and sign in.
   - **Username:** the username you use for other things at your college (usually what comes before the @ sign in your email)
   - **Password:** the password you use to login to MATC email.

http://matc.wids.org

2. Your program will appear on your home page. Click the program title to open it.

   TIP: If more than one project appears on your home page, make sure to select the PROGRAM you will be working on.

3. You will land on the **Program Outcome Summary** tab.
4. Confirm the information under the **Program Outcome Summary** tab.
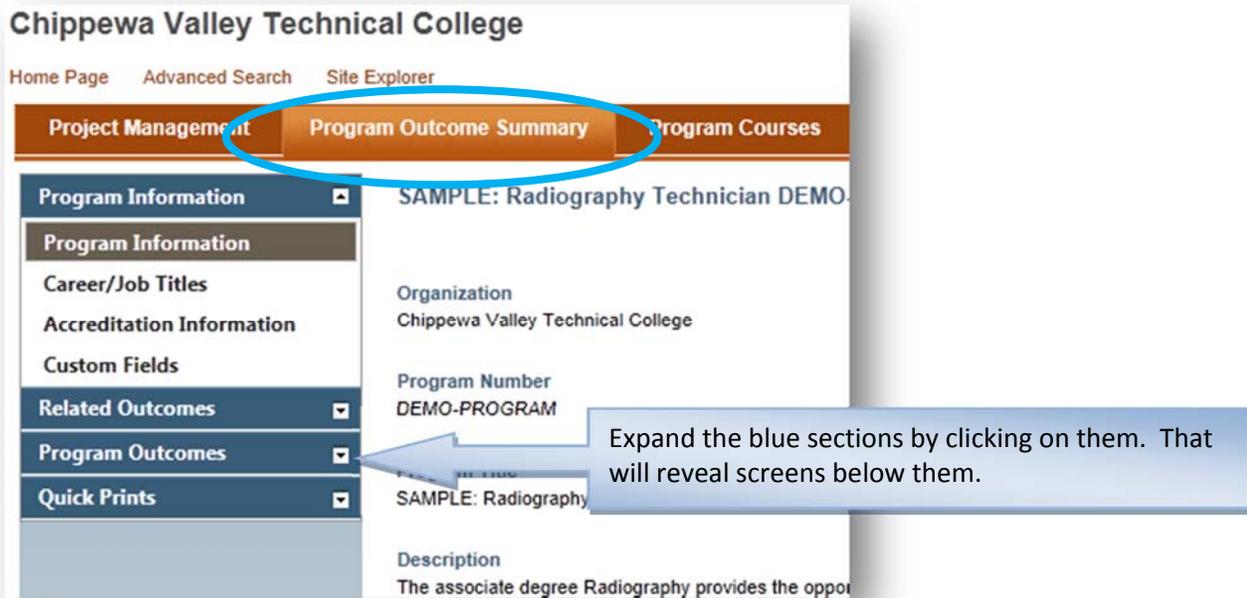
Tip: Your WIDS team has entered most of this information for you. Use the checklist below to conduct your review.

Section or Screen	Tips	Check if Complete
Program Information		
Program Information	*This information has been completed for you. Ensure that the data provided is correct.*	
Accreditation Information	*If your program has accreditation requirements you can enter them here—otherwise leave it blank.*	
Custom Fields	*Holds SOC codes with job titles*	
Related Outcomes		
Core Abilities	*All of the MATC core abilities should show here. If they don't, place the page into edit and add them.*	
External Standards	*If you have external standards to link, you can do so from here. If you don't have external standards—this will be blank. Not sure? Check with someone from your WIDS team.*	
Program Outcomes		
Program Outcomes • Assessment Strategies • Criteria	*Ensure that the program outcomes on your screen are current. If they aren't—delete the incorrect ones and add the new ones. If desired—add your assessment strategies and criteria.*	

Linked Program Outcomes
    To core abilities
    To external standards
	Leave this blank for now.	

5. Select the **Program Courses Tab** across the top. You will see a list of program courses on the screen. These are the courses you will use for mapping.

   Important: If a course you need for mapping is not on the list, contact your WIDS facilitator.
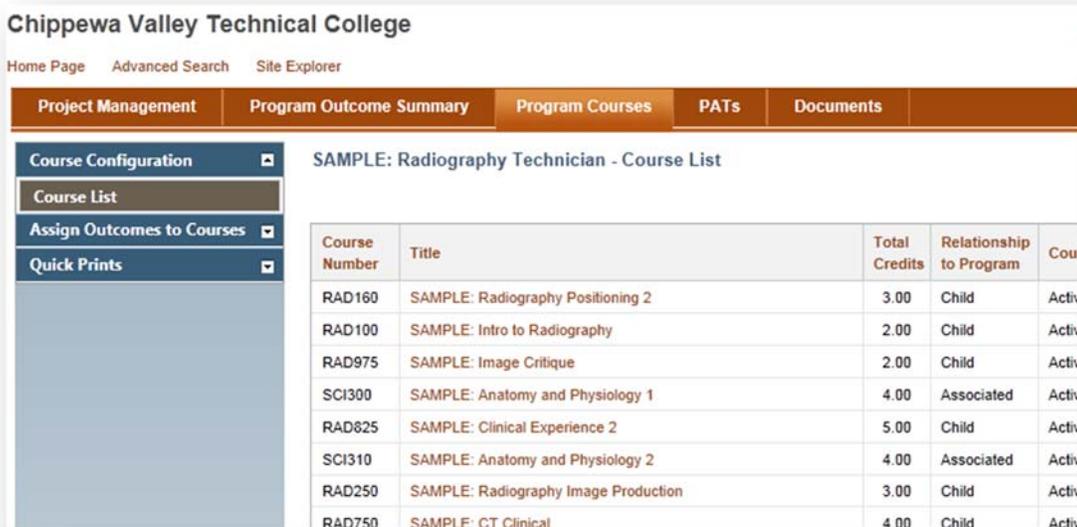
6. Click on **Assign Outcomes to Courses** in the left hand column.

7. Click **Assign Core Abilities**. Click **Edit** in the upper right hand corner to begin editing on the page.

8. Select the appropriate qualifier from the dropdown.

   *Make sure every program outcome is ASSESSED in at least **one** place; where you can gather evidence that they have learned. It is optional to use introduced and practiced.*
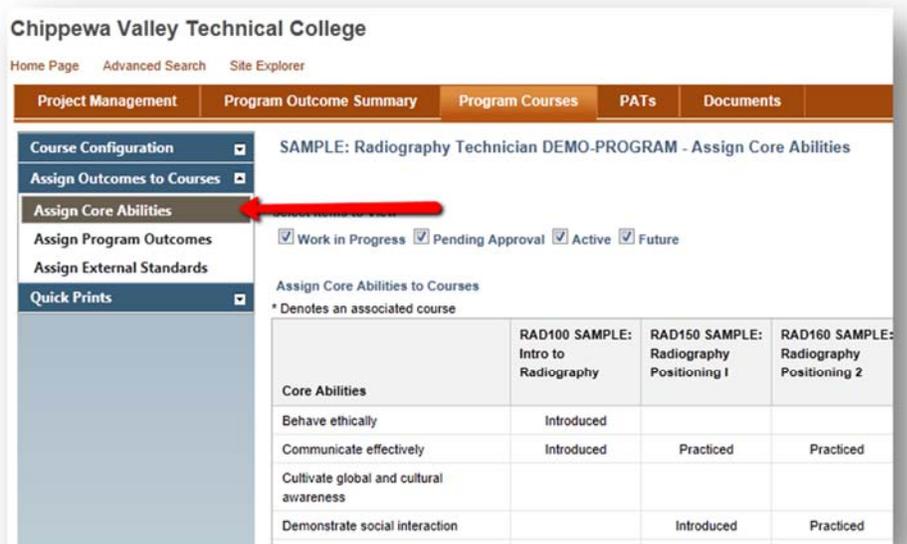
- INTRODUCED: Where students are introduced to the outcome
- PRACTICED: Where the outcome is reinforced and students afforded opportunities to practice it
- **ASSESSED: Where students have had sufficient practice and can now demonstrate mastery. Where you can collect EVIDENCE they can do it.**

9. When finished, click **Save and Close** to save your work.

10. Continue by assigning Program Outcomes and External Standards (if you have them) to your courses.

11. To print your matrix, select **Quick Prints** from the left hand navigation. Select the **Assigned Outcomes Matrix** report. WIDS generates the report. Adjust the number of columns in the report if desired. You should export the report as a Word or PDF and save it (you will need to send to the Curr Dept). You can Print the document from your screen. You can also save it to the Documents tab in WIDS by using the **Save in WIDS** option.

Finally, check your work to make sure you have completed the tasks on the Program Courses tab in WIDS:

Section or Screen	Tips	Check if Complete
Program Courses Tab		
Program Courses		
Course List	This information has been completed for you. It should include a list of both program (child) and associated courses. If your list is incomplete, check with someone from your WIDS team.	
Assign Outcomes to Courses		
Assign Core Abilities	This matrix shows how your core abilities are linked to your courses.	
Assign Program Outcomes	This matrix shows how your program outcomes are linked to your courses.	
Assign External Standards	If you have external standards to link, you can do so from here. If you don't have external standards—this will be blank.	

How to Request Approval for Your Program

Once you have completed your work in WIDS, you can request approval to make the program active in the WIDS system.

1. If you haven't already, open your program from your home page by clicking the project title to open it.
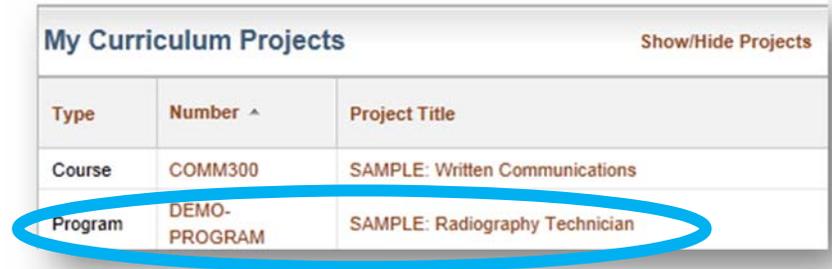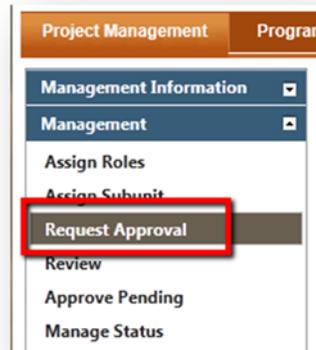
2. You will land on the **Program Outcome Summary** tab. Select the **Project Management** tab on the far left.
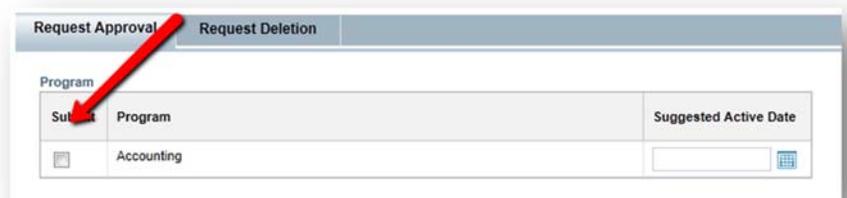
3. Expand the blue Management section and click on the **Request Approval** screen.

4. Click edit at the top of the screen.

   The title of your program will appear on the page. Click the box next to the program title. Add a Suggested Active Date if desired (or leave it blank).

   Click Save & Close.

Program approval means your program moves from WIP to Active with the following tasks completed.

- ✓ Complete list of program courses is entered in system (even if empty shell at this time).
- ✓ Program courses are identified as child/associate.
- ✓ Program outcomes are linked to courses.
- ✓ Core abilities are linked to courses.
- ✓ External standards are linked if appropriate.