E.1.9.2 (Procedure) Online Learning
Responsible Department: Vice Chancellor for Academic Success
Based on Board Policy: E.1.9 – Online Learning
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Access and affordability are essential elements for learners who enroll in the Alamo Colleges. The Alamo Colleges' Online seek to facilitate adoption of digital content (DC) and open educational resources (OER) that enhance the learner experience and reduce the cost of instructional materials. Both OER and DC are licensed and downloadable for re-use, re-purpose, re-mix, and re-distribution of electronic media, including full courses, course materials, modules, eTextbooks, digitized audio and videos, tests, software, and other learning objects. The adoption of OER and DC can foster student engagement and support knowledge attainment, as well as reduce the cost of instructional materials.

Digital Content Use Principles

The following set of principles and standards provide guidelines to foster adoption of digital content and open educational resources to support ACOL courses, programs and services.   In general, DC and OER content must support the stated learning objectives for the course and have sufficient breadth, depth, and currency to further student learning of the subject.

Principle 1: Information-Centric Approach

The ACOL program will foster thinking about data and information so that we provide accurate content in a secure fashion that allows for in-depth analytics by turning unstructured content into structured data. An information-centric approach fosters adoption of learning materials that are digitally tagged and can be presented in a manner that is most useful for instructors and learners to interact and engage. ACOL further recommends adoption of device agnostic resources that provide access to metadata while also providing an intuitive user interface.

Principle 2: Collaborative Solution Design

The ACOL program will adopt DC and OER solutions that foster collaboration amongst peers, educators, and learners. DC and OER solutions that allow instructors and learners to shape, share, and consume content are preferred.   In this manner, the ACOL program will create opportunities for instructors to enrich the learning environment and further empower students to construct new knowledge.

Principle 3: Learner Centric Availability

ACOL will foster the adoption of solutions that makes content more broadly available, accessible, and readily presentable through multiple channels in a device-agnostic way. This principle must hold true for all ACOL stakeholders (students, faculty, staff, and administrators).