

DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR ASSESSMENT:

Since 2008, the unit has also been developing and testing different information technologies to improve its assessment system. In 2008, the unit adopted True Outcomes, an assessment software program used to assess, track, analyze, and report on student outcomes. In Spring 2008, workshops were held to introduce faculty to True Outcomes. In Fall 2008, the College supported a half time support specialist who produced a number of white papers instructing faculty on how to perform key functions in True Outcomes. The support specialist also offered one-on-one assistance to faculty wishing to use True Outcomes. In 2009, it was announced that True Outcomes was no longer being supported by its parent company. Consequently, it was necessary to search for another assessment software solution. In Spring 2009, FSEHD administrators and faculty evaluated a number of assessment software programs and ultimately selected Chalk & Wire, a portfolio authoring and data analysis system used extensively in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. FSEHD administrators and select faculty attended a three day Chalk & Wire training workshop in September 2009. A plan was subsequently developed to phase in the training and implementation of Chalk & Wire. The FSEHD Director of Technology held four-hour, small group Chalk & Wire training sessions with department chairs, program coordinators, and other faculty in Fall 2009. Candidates were also being oriented to Chalk & Wire. All unit assessments were loaded into Chalk & Wire for use by those who have been trained to use the software. In Spring 2010, the FSEHD Director of Technology held 8 Chalk & Wire training sessions for faculty. These training sessions consisted of a general orientation to using Chalk & Wire for assessment and portfolio purposes.

Faculty members continued to use Chalk & Wire on a voluntary basis in Fall 2010. In addition, Chalk & Wire was formally piloted with 45 student teachers and their supervisors and cooperating teachers. Teacher candidates who purchased Chalk & Wire last year were included in the Fall 2010 student teaching pilot. Only those Cooperating Teachers and College Supervisors whose students owned Chalk & Wire were asked to participate in the student teaching pilot. During the pilot, teacher candidates submitted lesson plans and the Teacher Candidate Work Sample (TCWS) through Chalk & Wire. Cooperating Teachers and College Supervisors viewed the electronic lesson plans and submitting the data from the Observation and Progress Report (OPR) through Chalk & Wire. College Supervisors scored the TCWS through this site as well.

Technical assistance for new and existing Chalk & Wire users was expanded in Fall 2010. Trainings for candidates in the student teaching pilot were held on 9/7, 9/8, and 9/9/10 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Trainings for College Supervisors and Cooperating Teachers were held on 9/14 and 9/20/10 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and on Sept. 16th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Each session was attended by 10-15 individuals. The trainings focused on teaching the process of using Chalk & Wire for the purposes of student teacher evaluations. Participants were instructed in both sides of the process (student and assessor). Specially requested sessions were held on 10/6/10 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm and 10/12/10 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm and were attended by 8 to 10 teacher candidates each. One-on-one training sessions were conducted with 30 individual via email, telephone, and face-to-face meetings. Similar trainings and technical assistance were provided in Spring 2011. Training will continue until full scale implementation is achieved in Spring 2013.

Chalk & Wire training videos and white papers have been developed for teacher candidates and faculty assessors. Training videos and white papers for candidates include: Creating a Portfolio; Upload Content to a Portfolio; Sharing a Portfolio Using a Secure URL; Sharing a Portfolio with an Individual; Sharing a Portfolio with a Group; Submitting a Portfolio to an Internal Assessor; Submitting a Portfolio to an External Assessor; Self-Assessments; Change the Table of Contents in Your Portfolio; Import Content from One Portfolio to Another; View Assessment Results; Make an Archived or Deleted Portfolio Active. Training videos and white papers for faculty include: Accessing a Shared Portfolio Using a Share Group; Accessing a Shared Portfolio Using a Secure URL; Manual Assessments; Re-Assess an Assessment; View

Assessment Results; View Recent Assessments for Longer Than 7 Days; External Assessments; and Standard Assessments. The above resources were published in the Faculty and Student Toolboxes on the Rhode Island College web site in Spring 2011. Similar training resources for administrators and sub-administrators were developed and are being published on the RIC web site in Spring 2011.

Even without full scale implementation of Chalk & Wire, FSEHD has been moving toward electronic data collection for almost two years. In Fall 2009, all OPR data at Exit were collected via SurveyMonkey. In Spring 2010, all Exit, Preparing to Teach, and Student Teaching assessments were loaded into CheckBox, an alternative to SurveyMonkey and a user friendly vehicle for electronic data collection. The advantage of CheckBox over SurveyMonkey was that it had the capacity to email evaluators and candidates copies of completed assessments. In CheckBox, the Assistant Dean of Partnerships and Placements and the Director of Assessment were also immediately notified if a candidate was assigned a less than satisfactory score or rating. In these cases, remediation and advisement could begin on a timely basis. In Fall 2010, the unit switched to Surveygizmo because it offered features that CheckBox did not. By Spring 2010, the unit had achieved close to 100% electronic data collection. As of Fall 2010, 100% of data collection was electronic, either through Chalk & Wire or surveygizmo. While these changes are positive, the staggered implementation and varying modes of electronic data collection do present challenges in the compilation of data.