

AN ONLINE ELECTRONIC STUDENT ACADEMIC PORTFOLIO

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Introduction

Although the University of Pretoria uses WebCT as its Learning Management System, several features of the LMS do not accommodate the unique needs of medical education, the most important of which is the need to obtain a longitudinal profile of the student's achievement and professional development.

Abstract

The principle aim of this project is to create a holistic digital record of a student's achievements. Both the program requirements, which entail evidence of cognitive, psychomotor, and attitudinal outcomes, and the accountability of the achievements thereof are captured by the system for each student. The entire project has been divided into three phases. Phase 1 will be complete by June 2005.

The system integrates several functions, which provide comprehensive evidence of the student's achievements. These functions to be included in Phase 1 are:

- Creation of rubrics.
- Creating comments, which can be used during assessment.
- Creating and managing collaborative groups.
- Setting up of individual and group assignments.
- Submission of assignments.
- Assessment of the assignments.
- Reporting.

Phase 1, which has taken just over two years, was completed in the following stages:

- Determination of the broad needs of the stakeholders
- Completion of a business process analysis.
- Compilation of user requirements specification (URS) prior to requests for tenders.
- Design and development of the functions.
- End-user testing of the function – tested both separately and as an integrated system.

The innovation of this system lies in its comprehensiveness. The system also facilitates a structured approach to assessment.