To ensure Wayne State University's commitment to the highest standards of quality for its online programs, it endorses core values and best practices that are widely accepted as institutional benchmarks for quality online course design, instruction, and support. The core values that guide online instructional programs at WSU are based on the academic research literature and are informed by guidelines established by regional accrediting agencies and national educational policy organizations. Together these authoritative sources constitute a converging set of widely accepted evidence-based best practices that provide reliable criteria for assessing the quality and effectiveness of WSU's online programs and for guiding its online practices and policies.

Wayne State University is committed to upholding the principles and standards of good practice endorsed by the University's accrediting agency, The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. It is a member of the NC-SARA National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements and follows the Interregional Guidelines for the Evaluation of Distance Education Programs (Online Learning) for best practices in postsecondary education.

Among the core values and best practices that guide online program development, implementation, and support at WSU are:

▸ All online courses should be centered on student learning.

▸ A personal connection with students is more important than the technology used.

▸ Online courses should engage students in active learning.

▸ Faculty interactivity and prompt feedback on assignments are key to student engagement and success.

▸ The diverse ways students learn should be incorporated into the curriculum and instructional design of an online course.

▸ Student retention depends on effective and responsive student support services.

▸ Institutional standards for ensuring quality should be embedded in a formal process of peer-review and program evaluation.

▸ All faculty who teach online should have the opportunity to participate in a formal course development process.

▸ A quality assurance process for developing and teaching online courses should be established as part of a formal continuing education program for faculty.

▸ Compliance with online best practices should be regularly monitored and reviewed in a comprehensive and systematic way.

▸ Uniform standards for planning and authorizing online programs should be established along with appropriate oversight in monitoring compliance with standards of best practice.

▸ An efficient process of conducting online course evaluations should be implemented in conjunction with a process that ensures that standards of course quality are being met in a way that promotes continual course/program improvement.