Pass Go and Collect Your CME: The Fast-track to Earn CME for Graduate Coursework

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BACKGROUND
An increasing number of healthcare organizations are being led by physicians, and this number is expected to continue to rise. The Division of Management has seen a corresponding increase in clinicians entering our healthcare management graduate programs. Sixty percent of students enrolled in MGT 560 Organization, Financing, and History of Healthcare Delivery in the U.S. identified as clinicians; 40% of the class were physicians. With this number of clinicians more than doubling in the last three years, we sought ways to give CME credit for their learning throughout the program, learning which ultimately contributes toward the Quadruple Aim.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES
Clinicians undertaking graduate education in addition to their professional responsibilities do not do so lightly. Our providers are seeing more complex patients, are completing a growing number of compliance related trainings, and are being asked to take on additional leadership and administrative duties. The goals of offering CME for graduate coursework included:

- Lessen the CME burden for physicians engaged in graduate education,
- Develop a process that integrates into existing systems, minimizing additional effort for all involved,
- Educate other clinicians about who can use CME, and
- Create a process that is easily reproducible year-to-year and which serves as a model for extension to other courses.

METHODS
Spring 2017: The Division of Management explored feasibility and appropriateness of curriculum with CPD Office. Division’s curriculum committee identified courses and assignments that were already aligned with the mission of CME. We did not want to require faculty to change existing curriculum or set-up new assignments.

July 2017: Completed CME Application

August 2017: Developed guidelines and practices to align with academic policies and FERPA

September 2017: Added instructions and a simple mechanism for students to request CME within Sakai at the same time they submitted their paper (making it easy for students)

Fall Term 2017: Collected disclosure from instructors and speakers. Communicated to students via Announcements in Sakai.

December 2017: The Division sent reports, budget, and artifacts to CPD Office. Within a week, CPD sent certificates to students & program

IMPACT & EFFECTIVENESS
Based on the percentage of students who claimed CME credit in Fall 2017, and the ease of the whole experience, this pilot was successful in achieving the stated goals and objectives:

- Students reported that the mechanism to request CME was easy, and that their learning helped bridge their professional practice knowledge gap. 44% of registered students, 72% of enrolled physicians, requested CME.
- Faculty unanimously agreed that the slight additional effort was well worth the benefits to students. The curriculum committee agreed to extend the project, submitting another course for CME credit in AY 2018-19.
- Cost to the Division was about $1100 for the term, which included the initial CME application fee (about half of the cost).
- For the initial offering, it took approximately 40 hours of administrative time, spread across multiple months; ongoing, we estimate that it will take about 8 hours across the entire term to support a previously approved course.