The following six learning modules will be available to FSEM instructors starting in the fall of 2015. All modules are accessible through Canvas and utilize text, video, and ungraded Canvas quizzes. Each module ends with a final graded quiz that should be completed as part of the QEP assessment.

### Checking for CRAAP

The *Checking for CRAAP* module helps teach students to tell the difference between appropriate and inappropriate sources for papers and bibliographies. The module begins with a short animated video that explains the acronym CRAAP – Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, and Purpose – and shows students how to use these five criteria to judge whether a given source is appropriate for their research. After the video, students practice applying the CRAAP test by examining a series of example sources and rating each source on its currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, and purpose.

### Deconstructing Citations

Good researchers know that one of the best ways to find sources is to look in other scholars’ bibliographies, read the citations, and then find the cited sources. The *Deconstructing Citations* module teaches students how to do this. The module shows students how to look at a citation and identify the various elements, such as the author, title, and date. The module also shows students how to find the cited source in the library, by identifying the source as a book, a book chapter, or a journal article, selecting the appropriate search tool for that type of source, and then using the search tool to find the cited source.

### The Writing Process

This first module from the Writing Center focuses on the general writing process. The module follows the same format as the *Checking for CRAAP* module. First, a short animated video explains the writing process. Key ingredients for fleshing out ideas, preparing drafts, and revising work are discussed. After the video, students read a short article. The module ends with a short canvas quiz that asks the students questions on the content of the video. The *Writing Process* module will include freewriting/planning; brainstorming; drafting; revision; editing; proofreading; and publishing. These elements are key to the early development of writing skills.
Punctuation: commas and semicolons made easy

This new module for fall 2015 is targeted to the students with weak skills in the use of commas and semicolons. The module foregoes many of the technical terms that students may have encountered in the past and uses more accessible language. While this module does not address all issues that could arise with punctuation, it does address the bulk of mistakes students often make and that instructors have reported that their students make. The students will be given a brief overview of independent and dependent clauses and then build from those lessons, ultimately showing students how to punctuate correctly while varying their sentence structure.

Communication Apprehension

Our research finds that more than one-third of incoming students at UMW experience high levels of communication apprehension and many more experience elevated apprehension. The Communication Apprehension module will tell students about communication apprehension and outline some strategies for dealing with apprehension. It should help students better prepare for class discussion and presentations in your class. The module includes a TED-Ed video about stage fright, a short reading about communication apprehension, and an online survey that gives students information about how apprehensive they are in different settings.

Effective Visual Aids

This second module from the Speaking Center aims at enhancing students’ skills with visual aids. Many FSEM s involve a significant speaking component and the use of visual aids can be essential for success in a presentation. The module starts with a brief video introducing the importance of visual aids and continues with a second video that explains their purpose and outlines ways to encourage effective design. Students will focus on six main points: consider the audience, less is more, find quality images, use themes, practice, and be creative. Following the videos there are guided examples of a variety of strong visuals, a practice quiz to help students recognize the most effective options in design, a directory of helpful resources, a handout that summarizes the module, and a final quiz to test their understanding. This module will help our students start college with a strong foundation in visual presentation skills.