Fidelity of Implementation in Quasi-Experimental Design: Evaluating an Online Course Followed by Year-long Technical Assistance

RRTC on Employment for Transition-Age Youth with Disabilities
transition.vcurrtc.org

VCU

THE MODEL

Implementation Science: Exploration

1 Stakeholders meet and discuss an identified need and develop a plan derived from evidence-based data. VCU Transition RRTC staff have implemented the ACE-IT in College Program since 2010 and based this PD course on their years of experience, offering the course across the U.S.

Implementation Science: Installation

2 These are the tasks needed to be done to start the program. Program staff created and tested the online course, which included writing scripts and recording all of the lessons, and gathering online materials and activities. VCU staff also started planning for TA and marketed the program to colleges and universities nationwide.

Implementation Science: Initial Implementation

3 This encompasses the initial delivery of the program, while working through the ups and downs of a new program. Interested university staff enrolled in the online course, then the global pandemic hit. Enrollment numbers fell only slightly; however, the unknown future and circumstances did not allow for many to sign up for the intensive, year-long TA, resulting in changes to the research for the first year.

THE FRAMEWORK

REP Framework: Pre-Conditions

1 Pre-conditions are detailed planning and obtaining funding. VCU completed this phase of the framework in 2018-19. The REP Framework was used to develop the research questions and processes in conjunction with the Implementation Science model. A plan for fidelity was also established at this time.

REP Framework: Pre-Implementation

2 This phase entails customizing delivery of the course, logistics planning, and developing the Technical Assistance. Fidelity measures were developed at this time, ready to be tested and refined if needed during the next phase.

REP Framework: Implementation

3 Implementation of the program, including fidelity of implementation, continuous support, refining the training and delivering the TA. Processes are currently being reviewed in light of the global pandemic and reduced enrollment.

Next Steps

What next? The Implementation Science method will include Full Implementation, while the REP Framework is Maintenance and Evolution. This program is still in the Implementation stage, which can last 2 or more years. Because of the pandemic, we are currently working to increase marketing measures and coming up with innovative ways to deliver the PD.

Elizabeth Getzel, Director, Transition RRTC, lgetzel@vcu.edu
Susan McKelvey, Dir of Research & Evaluation, Transition RRTC, mckelveysp@vcu.edu