

IITG Mid Year Project Report

Name of Principle Investigator:

Ghanashyam Sharma (Shyam)

IITG Project Title (truncated)

2018-Stony Brook-Sharma-MASLOW: Platform for International... Transition and Success

1) Please consider the original timeline and deliverable targets. How is your project progressing compared with the original estimates?

We have developed the course platform and among the two developers of the grant and project, I am teaching the first course being delivered on the MASLOW platform. My project partner Cynthia Davidson and I couldn't be more excited about the progress/achievements of our project so far:

- 1) SUPPORT: Our university's President, Provost, Associate Provost for Global Affairs, and a few graduate students contributed to a video project for promoting the project.
- 2) IMPLEMENTATION: Our department adopted the new course delivery system for the graduate writing course.
- 3) INTEREST: Our online education office, which endorsed our application for this grant, is interested in expanding the application of modularized and student-centered learning of writing skills online into the undergraduate domain (we want to see the results of this piloting first).
- 4) CONFERENCES: We have applied for and been accepted to present a panel at the Computers and Writing, a prestigious conference in our field. In addition to this, as well as the CIT conference, we are planning to present at the summer institute of the Consortium on Graduate Communication.
- 5) SCHOLARSHIP: We are keeping track of our conversation and student learning and plan to publish at least a journal article out of this project.
- 6) OTHER PROGRESS: I am in discussion with the community of scholars at the Consortium for Graduate Communication, an international organization for which I am a board member, toward developing an NSF grant for the "innovations in graduate education" track.

2) How is spending progressing when compared with the original budget estimates? (You may also choose to detail issues regarding access to funds in the next three questions).

Our budget was straightforward. We needed some money to create professional quality videos. We created a few by using the subsidized service on campus; we also leveraged the resource by involving university officials and students. We requested a second line for our work in summer; we are yet to receive it, but are hopeful that this will happen soon. And we are yet to use a small amount that we had requested for conference travel.

3) Please provide feedback regarding your experience with the project execution, in particular any issues or roadblocks you've encountered that may have been unexpected.

None. We would have LOVED to design a more systematic research project to gather and analyze data from students taking the course, but the IRB system here seems to assume that all research (including educational research and teacher talk) involves potentials for severe dangers to human health and wellbeing. So, we're planning to write reflectively about our own experiences. Other than that, we are grateful for everything related to this project.

4) What are your positive observations or pleasant surprises about your team's interaction or project process that might be helpful to other PI's?

We are team awesome, of two -- and we've found a lot of support from everyone. Your trust + our hard work = success.

5) Please describe any challenges you've encountered working with your project team that you've found solutions for that might be helpful to other PI's.

None. Sorry.