

Curriculum Drift

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Outline

- Context
 - Curriculum
 - Compliance (accreditation)
- Curriculum Drift
 - What it is
 - Impact
 - What we can do about it

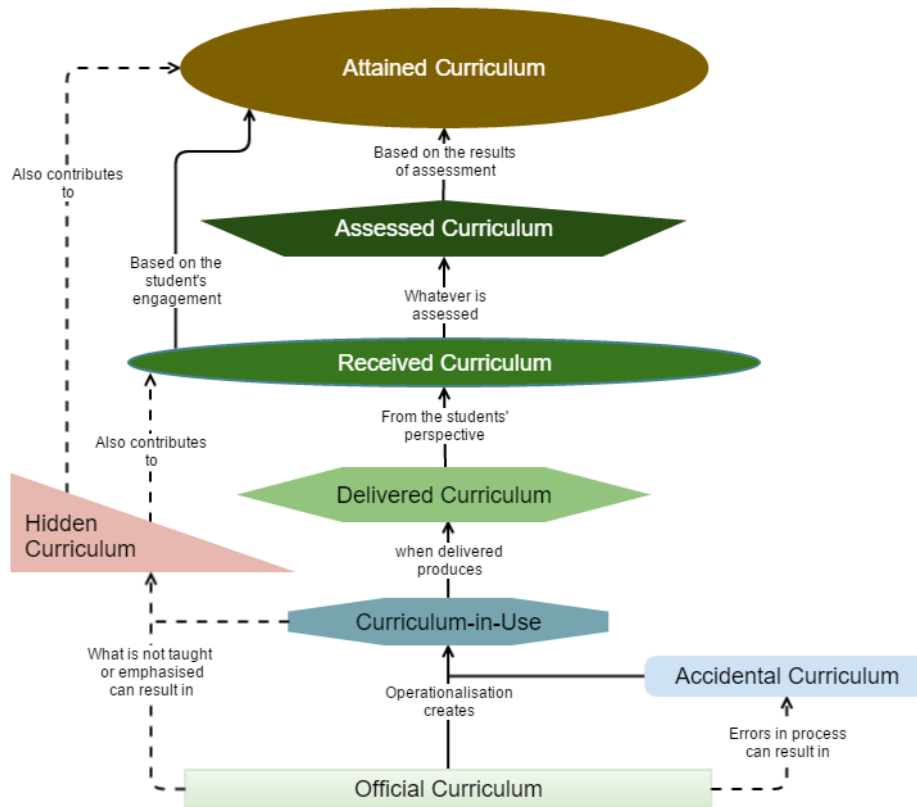
Curriculum – What do you think it is?

- Write down quickly what you think of when someone mentions the term curriculum to SO

Compliance – What do you think it is?

- Write down quickly what you think compliance means, especially in light of accreditation
 - What are you measuring against?
 - What and how do you measure?
 - How confident are you that you are complying?

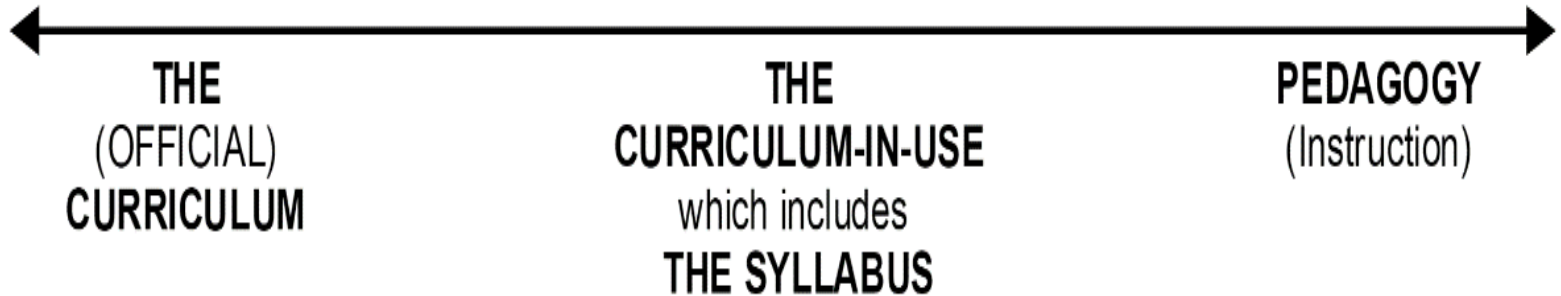
Many different types of curriculum?



A reasonable definition

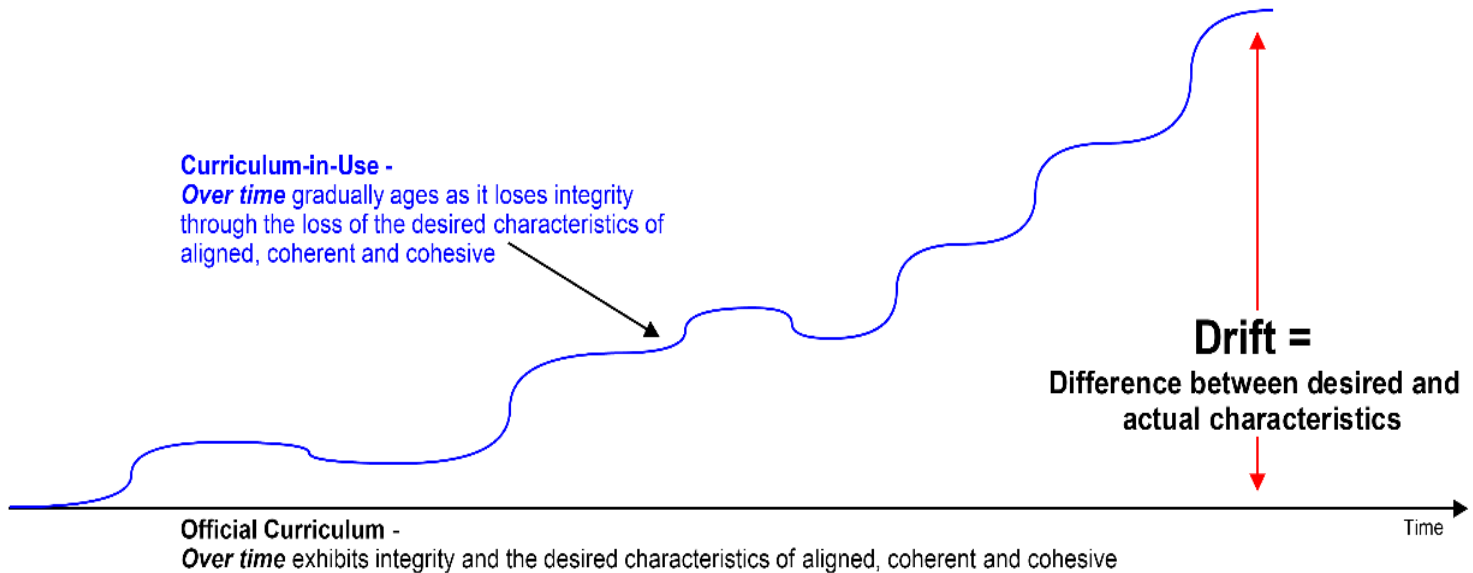
The term curriculum refers to the published, planned, official-curriculum; “what organisations develop for the learners in their educational systems and what should be taught by teachers in that system” (Print, 1993, p. 4) and is expressed “in a form that can be communicated to those associated with the learning institution ... [is] open to critique, and ... able to be readily transformed into practice” (Prideaux, 2003).

The curricular continuum



Based on Zais (1976), p. 12

Curriculum drift



Should we be worried?

- **No!**
 - A natural occurrence of a dynamic curriculum
 - Natural way to explore and perturb the curriculum
- **BUT**
 - When unmonitored it affects the realisation of the articulated outcomes
 - Change in outcomes is slow to manifest itself

Should we be worried? Yes, probably!

- “The closer the relationships are among courses [and program] curriculum ... the more effective the learning experience will be for our students”.
- Whether one is “working on the design of a single course or of a [program] curriculum it is imperative that you keep in mind the relationship between the two”

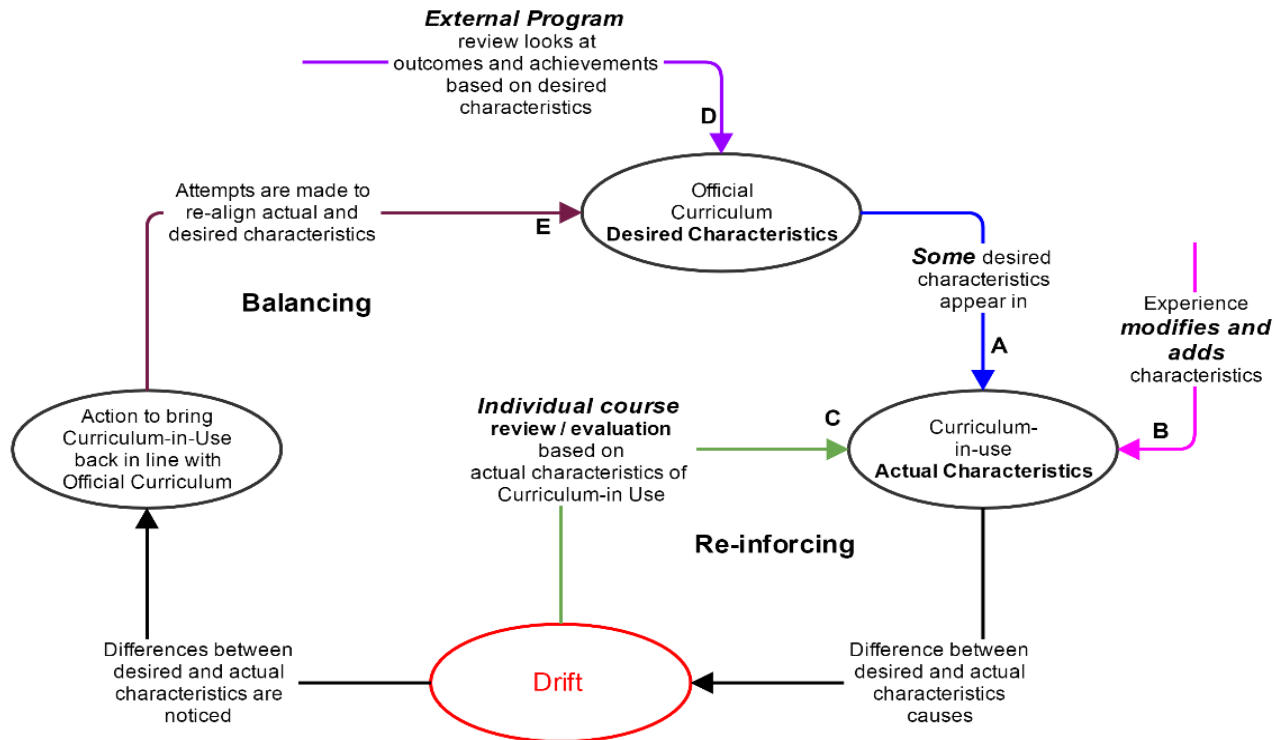
Why does it happen?

- “I know what the course is called and I will print on the course my understanding of what that topic is”
- “I worked on the basis of what I thought that particular type of course should be teaching”
- “Here’s the name of the unit, but forget that, this is what we’ll learn”
- “What I did when I went to university”

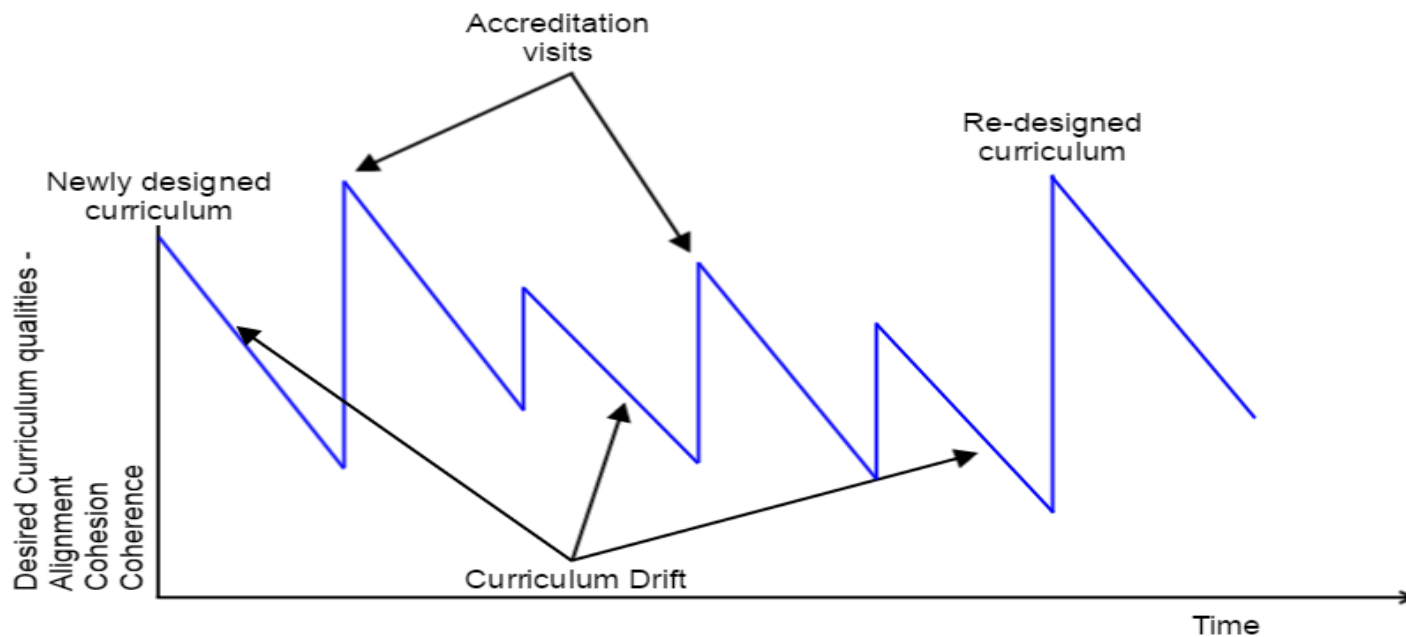
Why does it happen?

- “Do you worry about that your course might be different from the [official-curriculum]? ... I wouldn't care. As long as the students are happy I know they're still learning something, then who would care ... ?
- “I think in computer science particularly, that academics just don't talk to each other about course content”

What we generally do



Curriculum drift



What we should do – monitor curriculum drift

