Table 6 Rankings in the second and third Delphi rounds about how to improve the educational content of courses at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

Rank	Educational content	Round 2 (n = 102) Mean (SD)	Round 3 (n = 62) Mean (SD)
1	Utilize up-to-date scientific information	9.3 (1.9)	9.8 (1.5)
2	Emphasize research when determining course content	9.3 (0.5)	9.7 (0.5)
3	Decrease or eliminate basic and prerequisite courses which are not related to the aims of the degree programme, and improve their contents by emphasizing practical courses	8.8 (1.1)	9.6 (0.8)
4	Choose educational content according to society's needs	8.9 (1.4)	9.5 (1.0)
5	Create variety in educational resources according to the latest scientific developments in the world, as directed through developed countries	8.4 (2.0)	9.2 (1.3)
6	Emphasize job requirements/skills when determining course content	8.5 (1.4)	9.2 (0.4)
7	Eliminate useless materials from educational content of all programmes and make the syllabi more effective and specific	8.5 (0.9)	9.1 (0.3)
8	Make educational content more flexible in order to respond promptly to changes in students' and society's needs	8.5 (2.4)	9.1 (1.3)
9	Separate the core curricula from non-core curricula	5.8 (1.9)	8.7 (0.8)
10	Provide accurate compilations of practical training content	8.0 (1.4)	8.7 (0.6)
11	Merge educational materials vertically and horizontally and provide courses as holistic training packages	8.1 (0.7)	8.6 (0.8)
12	Emphasize professional ethics	7.4 (0.8)	8.5 (0.5)
14	Consider moral and cultural problems of Iranian society in educational contents	7.1 (1.9)	7.6 (1.3)
14	Add courses such as sociology, art, logic and the philosophy of critical thought to academic courses	– (–)	6.0 (0.7)