

The Journey to Competency-based Education with Sinclair Community College

How CBE and a new LMS helped Sinclair prepare its students for the real world in less time

At a glance

Client: Sinclair Community College

Students: 20,000-22,000 annual enrollment

Level: Higher Education

Solution: Brightspace Learning Environment

Challenge

Sinclair Community College had long wanted to integrate competency-based education (CBE) into its curriculum. With the help of a grant, Sinclair could begin transitioning some of its courses to CBE. However, during this CBE transition, the school's old LMS was acquired by Blackboard. While Sinclair could continue using the LMS, it would no longer be supported. Now, Sinclair needed to throw an LMS search into the mix.

Results

In the first three years of implementation at Sinclair, CBE students averaged two terms to complete their first program, while non-CBE students took twice as long — averaging around four terms. Those completing degrees are finishing in an average of four terms, which is 35% faster than non-CBE students. In addition, graduation rates for CBE students were double that of non-CBE students over the three-year period of Sinclair's first CBE program offerings.

Solution

Brightspace had the right educational tools to meet Sinclair students' needs. In particular, Brightspace's Learning Object Repository (LOR) allowed Sinclair to meet the increasing demands for online programs. Using Brightspace, Sinclair has set up its courses using competency-based curriculum. Students can progress at their own pace and on their own schedule. Using Release Conditions, Sinclair's instructional designers can release course content only when students have passed a level of proficiency.

What they said

As one academic coach described, having live data from Brightspace allows for "enlightened" advising. For the first time, coaches can have "knowledgeable conversations with students regarding their progress" and classroom performance.

"[The technology is] the thing that's hidden in the background, but it's our foundation." -Christina Amato, CBE Program

Read the full Success Story:

<https://www.d2l.com/success-stories/journey-competency-based-education-sinclair-community-college/>