2022

Blended Learning Course

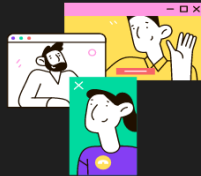Company XYZ

Converting to Distance Learning

Amanda Valente

Best Practices Guide

Pre-Planning Considerations

The Basics

Transitioning to Blended Learning

- Write learning goals and objectives and identify a distance learning
- Develop clear and well-designed lesson plans (Piskurich in Walden University, LLC, n.d.)
- Train the facilitators and include the facilitator in the redesign of the course (Piskurich in Walden University, LLC, n.d.)
- Select a blended learning model such as: skill-drive, attitude-drive, competency-driven (Valiathan, 2002)

Activities and Materials

- Actively deliver content through activities and applications (Piskurich in Walden University, LLC, n.d.)
- Select learning activities, create a syllabus, select instructional materials to support the course (Simonson, Zvacek & Smaldino, 2019)
- Create discussion forums that foster critical thinking and engage learners
- Plan for effective instruction at a distance (Simonson, Zvacek & Smaldino, 2019)

Technology/Multimedia

Selecting the right ones

- Determine which is the best CMS for the course and the audience
- Create effective digital content that can traverse the distance
- Weave media together in a way that combines the classroom and virtual educational media (Tucker, 2013).

Student Support Methods

- Provide office hours and contact information
- Be present in the online classroom (Piskurich in Walden University, LLC, n.d.)
- Share feedback often, facilitate online discussions, provide students with syllabus, rubrics, and exemplars

TIME TO LEVEL UP

Moving Towards Online Learning

Student Centered

Shifts

A true blended learning experience has the learner and the learning experience at its core (Tucker, 2013). This is a shift that gives the learner control over the learning process (Tucker, 2013).

Assessments/Feedback

- Blended learning models allow for more in-depth evaluations/assessments that are typically built into the CMS platform (Blended Learning Toolkit, n.d.).
- Assessments can be formative and summative and designed to fit into easily to the CMS
- Projects, games, and assignments can be embedded into the CMS to assess learners

Think Big

Role of the Instructor

The changes...

- Teacher to facilitator of learning
- Teacher that augments the course materials with explanations, reinforcements, revelations (Beaudoin, 1990).

More Changes..

- Teacher as an additional classroom resource
- Teacher with competent digital literacy skills
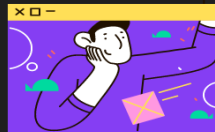
Even more changes...

- Teacher as a master and diverse communicator
- Teacher who helps create a positive learning experience for all students from a distance

Communication

Start Small

Fostering learner communication

- Lead by example
- Facilitate thoughtful discussions
- Show learners you care
- Assign group work
- Offer online office hours
- Encourage questions

References

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