

Case Study of SmarterMeasure™ & Temple College



The Challenge

Like many colleges and universities, Temple College has experienced tremendous growth over the past three years. With a student population that has increased from 2800 students to over 6000, the past three years have been a challenge to meet the needs of a diverse population of students. Initially, the school experienced scheduling and space issues, and being able to provide classroom space on campus for the influx of new enrollees. So Temple worked hard to increase the number of online offerings which grew from 275 to 950 course sections. That allowed them to serve over 4800 of those 6000 as students who participate in some form of eLearning, including web-enhanced, hybrid, and fully online courses. In addition to logistics, the growing population of elearners created some new challenges— the need to assess student skills, set expectations of course work, clarify requirements, and bridge the gap between the traditional classroom and the online environment. Students struggled with misconceptions about elearning, not only what skills set were needed but also the commitment required to be successful. Administrators were pleased with the increase in enrollments but recognized the importance of keeping the students enrolled and completing their course work .

The Solution

To combat the challenge, Temple College implemented a one week session student orientation initiative that includes 8-10 sessions. The sessions focus on various areas of eLearning including tutorials on using their LMS, technical skills, and faculty presentations about support services. The students are sent to their url—<http://www.templejc.edu/elearn/elearn.htm>. As an assignment in the orientation, Temple College added SmarterMeasure™ learning readiness indicator. Students are encouraged to take the assessment as part of Temple’s “continuous orientation” model. Many faculty require students to take it as either a week one orientation exercise or an extra credit assignment to help them be successful online learners. SmarterMeasure is highlighted as students log in to the LMS for the first time as a news item. Faculty are also encouraged to take the assessment to have a better understanding of the feedback the students receive.

The Result

Brian St. Amour, Director of eLearning at Temple states, “Our enrollment has drastically increased. Implementing our orientation initiatives and SmarterMeasure have contributed to student success and retention”. The feedback provided to the students gives them valuable insight to help them overcome challenges and remain enrolled in our elearning courses”. In addition to empowering students, SmarterMeasure has also given faculty insight about how to help their students succeed.

BOTTOM LINE

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Brian St. Amour
Director of eLearning ,
Temple College



Do you want to know more about how your school can **IMPROVE RETENTION?**

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