Pearson

Revel is easy-to-use, even for first time adopters

Spotlight on: Shawn Davis

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology is a private university with the main campus located in Chicago, Illinois. It currently enrolls approximately 6,000 students and offers over 30 academic programs. It enrolls mainly non-traditional students, with a mean age of 34 years old, and the vast majority identifying as female (82%).

Shawn Davis has been an instructor at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology for under a year but has over 20 years of prior teaching experience. Of those 20 years, ten have been online, which gives him a unique perspective on how technology has been used and evolved in the higher education field over the years. While he has used a variety of online platforms, ranging from WebCT to Connect, he is currently using Revel in his Fundamentals of Psychology course, and finds it to be the most promising comprehensive solution he has used so far.

From Shawn's first interaction with Revel, he was pleasantly surprised with how easy it is to use and set up. Initially, Shawn was supposed to be supplied with

a course template, but the night before the start of the semester, the template could not be located. This meant Shawn had to create and set up the course from scratch, which was incredibly daunting. Having the Pearson contact information at hand just in case, he started working his way through the set up, but as he progressed, he noticed just how intuitive and straightforward it was, therefore easily setting up the course in one evening. "Just going in cold, I didn't even need to call (Pearson) at all. It's a lot smoother platform than I gave it credit for... When compared to something like Canvas, where you can really easily get sidetracked and have questions of what to do, Revel is intuitive to the point where I could really just step right in as an instructor."

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As a newer user of Revel, Shawn appreciates all the resources available for instructors, ensuring a smooth transition into adoption. In particular, Shawn likes the PowerPoints and instructor's manual. He plans to utilize more of those available PowerPoints moving forward but has frequently referenced the instructor's manual. "(The instructor's manual) gives not just technological tips, but there are also pedagogical tips which I like." In addition, Shawn uses the Educator's dashboard to inform instruction and quite often views it to determine which students are not keeping up in regard to their grades and assignment completion. "I use it for class maintenance and seeing which students are lagging behind. It is a really fast indicator of who is struggling, and I have used it to be able to reach out to those students to try to bring them back into the fold."

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Shawn also appreciates that with Revel you can either set it and forget it, or you can get as granular as you want, with many options for customization, including creating your own questions. This is the aspect of Revel that Shawn finds most successful for him as an instructor of online courses. Shawn believes the flexibility Revel offers makes online students feel that he has his hands in every part of the course. As a result, increasing student engagement. "There are so many parts and pieces with Revel that it gives students the impression that I am extremely engaged and hands on with them because if students feel like I'm not engaged, they'll drop off immediately."

Frequent opportunities for students to gauge their comprehension is important to Shawn. With Revel's video quizzes, he finds the short, easily digestible, and engaging videos provide students a way to not only make sure they understand the material, but also offers them a way to apply and, in turn, retain what they are learning. "The video quizzes are a really good way to see how they apply the information, how they take it to the next level, and not just regurgitate or repeat what they've learned."

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