



Customer story
English testing to
benchmark learning
efficacy in Vietnam



Pearson

BUILD-IT



USAID
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BUILD-IT English for Engineering in leading Vietnam universities

The BUILD-IT Alliance is an initiative to create a world class model for university-industry partnership in Vietnam in the field of innovative technologies and engineering. Sponsored by USAID and led by Arizona State University - America's #1 ranked university for innovation - the goal is to better link teaching and learning outcomes with industry needs, ensuring that students graduate with the in-demand skills that will power Vietnam's social and economic development.

In order to better link technical skills in engineering with higher levels of English proficiency, four leading Vietnamese universities co-developed and delivered, with the support of BUILD-IT and Pearson, a 13-week English for Engineering course. The program is designed to embed a CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) approach for engineering majors, providing students with the opportunity to use their English language skills to actively share ideas, perspectives, knowledge, and practical applications related to engineering content.



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" The Versant test proved to be a valuable tool to measure the effectiveness of this pilot. The BUILD-IT team see immense benefits for students to use Versant in their journey to English proficiency."

Jimmy Cervin

BUILD-IT Programme Liaison, Arizona State University

CHALLENGE

Reliably Measure Language Gain In Pre And Post Testing

BUILD-IT needed a way to give students, lead instructors, and the administration team a benchmark to use to gauge the improvement of the students' English abilities throughout the duration of the course, and ultimately the effectiveness of the program itself. As the course covered both conversation structures and vocabulary / grammar-related activities, a test that can measure the fore core language skills – speaking, listening, reading and writing – was required.

SOLUTION

AI-scored 4 Skills Assessment of Workplace English

BUILD-IT selected the *Versant 4 Skills Essential Test* as their testing solution.

The test assesses productive (speaking and writing) and passive (listening and reading) communication skills — all four of which are necessary for effective workplace communication. The test is widely used by organizations to screen the full communication skills of their job candidates and employees in workplace and everyday settings, making it both relevant and accessible to students on the English for Engineering course.

RESULTS

Concrete And Reliable Data to Showcase The Success Of The Pilot

The pilot was highly successful, with students showing improvement in all four key skill areas, as well as expressing a higher level of confidence in their communicative abilities in STEM topics. A net increase of 15% in their Versant post test score was achieved in only 39 classroom hours spread out across 13 weeks - a change in proficiency equivalent to moving from CEFR A2 to A2+ (from GSE 30 to 36) . The findings demonstrate the effectiveness of the pilot program in improving student's English and their motivation to use it in an engineering-based environment.

A2+

the average CEFR level (GSE range 36-42) by the end of the English for Engineering course

15%

measurable increase in overall communicative proficiency

85%

of students were either satisfied or very satisfied with the English for Engineering course



Automated language tests for benchmarking English proficiency

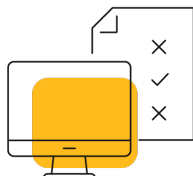
Backed by over 25 years of research, Versant tests help universities to baseline language levels upon enrollment and monitor student progress through a course.

Using advanced artificial intelligence (AI) technology and an integrated skills approach to language testing, Versant tests provide near instant results to accurately and reliably measure candidates' **real** communication skills, anytime anywhere.



Accurate

0.97 correlation to human raters ensures confidence in test results



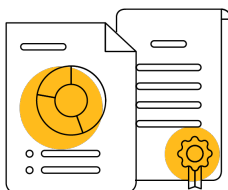
Reliable

0.97 split-half reliability ensures consistent testing every time



Data-rich

Detailed diagnostics and correlations to international standards



Certificated

Digital and cobranded score reports and certificates

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