



Revel Communication educator study

A look at the impact on student performance in Fundamentals of Speech Communication at Miami Dade College Kendall Campus

Key findings:

- Students scoring at or above the median Revel™ score earned significantly higher final course scores than students who scored below the median Revel score.
- Students who passed the course (earning a C or above) skipped an average of 5.2 fewer Revel assignments than students who failed the course.
- Ochoa reports that requiring Revel in the course has led to increased student preparedness and engagement, along with improved overall performance.

Setting

Locale: Miami Dade College is the largest institution of higher education in the United States, serving the most diverse student population in the nation at nine campuses across Miami-Dade county, Florida.

Enrollment: approximately 92,000

Ethnicity: 71% Hispanic, 17% Black

Success rate: 89% for full-time students; 84% for part-time students

Average student age: 25



School name: Miami Dade College Kendall Campus, Miami, FL



Course name: Fundamentals of Speech Communication



Course format: Face to face



Course materials: Revel for *Essentials of Human Communication* by DeVito



Timeframe: Fall 2017



Educator: Aileen Ochoa



Results reported by: Stephanie Fritson, Pearson Customer Outcomes Analytics Manager

About the course

Fundamentals of Oral Communication (SPC 1017) provides students with the oral communication skills necessary for success in personal, professional, and educational settings. Through the study and experiential practice of interpersonal communication, presentational speaking, and group dynamics, students will understand the concepts and principles of communication and be able to use them effectively. This course fulfills the State of Florida Gordon Rule requirement that students demonstrate proficiency in college-level writing through multiple assignments.

Challenges and Goals

Prior to implementing Revel, Instructor Aileen Ochoa found that students were frequently attending class without having read the assigned material and were unprepared for discussions. Students lacked the precursory knowledge necessary to be successful in the course. She elected to assign Revel readings and quizzes in hopes of increasing student reading and preparedness, ultimately leading to higher overall scores in the course.

Implementation

In Fall 2017, Ochoa implemented Revel with [Blackboard LMS integration](#) across six course sections of SPC 1017. Revel integration delivers streamlined access to everything students need for the course in the Blackboard Learn environment. Through this approach, students were able to access all course materials through a single sign in.

Ochoa required weekly chapter readings, along with module and chapter quizzes within Revel. A total of 14 chapters were covered in the course with the chapter quiz assigned for each chapter of required reading. Revel quiz grades were recorded in the Blackboard gradebook and accounted for 16% of the overall course grade. In addition to the Revel assignments, students were also required to complete an

informative speech, persuasive speech, famous speech, group presentation, midterm exam, journal entries, and a service learning project. An additional 15 points (1.5% of overall grade) were awarded for class attendance and participation.



Assessments

- 16% Revel quizzes
- 15.9% Journal entries
- 15% Informative speech
- 15% Persuasive speech
- 10% Famous speech
- 10% Group speech
- 10% Midterm exam
- 6.6% Service learning project
- 1.5% Attendance/participation

Results and Data

A *t*-test, which measures whether the means of two groups are statistically different, was used to compare the final course score earned between students who scored above and below the median Revel quiz score. Results indicate that students who scored above the median Revel quiz score earned a significantly higher final course score than students who scored below the median, where $t(101) = 3.20$ and $p < 0.01$, indicating that this difference was statistically significant.

Students who passed the course, earning a final grade of C or above, skipped an average of 5.2 fewer Revel assignments than students who failed the course with a final course grade of D or F. Of the 14 required Revel chapter quizzes, students who failed the course skipped an average of 7 quizzes.

The Student Experience

In Fall 2017, students using Revel in a variety of courses at several U.S. colleges completed a voluntary, end-of-semester survey (612 participants), providing valuable insight on their experience.

96% of respondents were able to log in to Revel the first week of class.

90% of respondents described their experience learning to use Revel as very easy or easy.

88% of respondents agreed completing Revel readings and quizzes better prepared them for class.

79% of respondents agreed that experiencing the text through Revel helped them feel more engaged with the course content than a traditional textbook.

74% of respondents agreed that they preferred using Revel over a traditional text.

Conclusion

Instructor Ochoa implemented Revel in Fundamentals of Speech Communication with the goal of improving student reading, engagement, and preparedness for class sessions. She also hoped that by improving student reading and engagement, overall performance in the course would improve. Performance results indicate that students who scored at or above the median Revel score earned a significantly higher percentage of total course points than students who scored below the median. Also, students who passed the course, earning a final grade of C or above, skipped an average of 5.2 fewer Revel assignments than students who failed the course with a final course grade of D or F. Ochoa reports that requiring Revel in the course has led to increased student preparedness and engagement, along with improved overall performance.

Students' survey comments regarding their Revel experience in Fundamentals of Speech Communication at Miami Dade College Kendall Campus included:

"You learn more effectively with Revel."

"[Revel] helps you understand the material better."

"Revel is a good program, better than using a textbook."