

Revel improves results *

Spotlight on: Revel Criminal Justice



Pearson interviewed instructors across the United States in the winter of 2020 to better understand how they're using and experiencing Revel Criminal Justice. Through this work, we found that the high-quality, relevant content in Revel Criminal Justice helps students succeed.

Helping students succeed

Mike Penrod, emeritus professor at Kirkwood Community College in Iowa, has seen how the content based on learning science in Revel has helped his students be successful in his courses through increased retention and critical thinking skills.

"The way Revel is set up, it's brain-based learning methodology. The more times you get to look at the material, through the embedded quizzes, SharedWriting, end-of-chapter quizzes, they are seeing the content constantly broken down into smaller pieces and it just makes a lot of sense...I think Revel has helped not just with learning, but the number of students who stick with the course too...SharedWriting helps develop critical thinking skills. It's not just a regurgitation of information, but they have to think about the issues out there in the real world."

John Baker, full-time professor at St. Cloud University in Minnesota, finds the higher level of engagement

with Revel has led to better quiz, exam and overall course grades.

"I saw an increase in their engagement with the Revel platform last semester which resulted in their increased grades across the board. It was about 5% higher. It went from 83% to 88%. Right now, so far this semester, they are currently sitting at 87%, so that's excellent."

Suzanne Thibault, adjunct professor at Quincy College in Massachusetts, believes her students are more likely to be successful because of the way material is presented to students, especially when compared to what they were previously using in the course.

"I do think there is an increase in performance because Revel is more structured and organized. When you are utilizing the publisher's resources, they have already given them that foundation and outline, so it keeps them on track."

Mark Eger, part-time professor at Yuba College in California, sees the benefits of students being able to work independently without much assistance from the instructor, unless needed. He believes students are retaining more information as they have to engage with Revel to perform well within the course.

“They take ownership of their learning as Revel is easily 90% student driven. I would argue that students are probably getting more out of Revel rather than a strictly face-to-face model. They don't have to do all the work if it's 100% in person. There are individuals that just sit in the back of the classroom and just kind of glide through. The reality of Revel is that you can't do that. You have to read and study to answer the questions for a decent grade.”

Fostering student satisfaction

While John Baker gets calls from other publishers every day and has used other platforms aside from Revel before, the main reason he sticks with Revel is because his students prefer it over all others as indicated through end-of-year surveys.

“Students love the Revel platform. We love it. It is accessible to them on multiple devices...they like the ease of it. They like the ability to listen to each chapter, pretty much everything that is involved with Revel...and the cost is very, very good too.”

The student-driven learning offered through Revel is appealing to Suzanne Thibault, as well as her students. According to Suzanne, her busy students like being able to work through Revel at their own pace.

“Students like Revel a lot because they are able to be on their own and independent. They do feel like it is a lot of work because I assign almost everything in Revel, but they like it because they are able to go at their own pace.”

A tool that supports instructors

Mark Eger appreciates the reduction in workload when it comes to setting his course up in Revel.

“It is much more labor intensive when you have to set up a course yourself. With Revel you just sit back and watch. You interject if needed and watch the students chart their path. I am a firm believer in this program.”

The enhanced version of Revel allows John Baker to monitor his students' progress all at a single glance, which makes it easier for him to give individualized feedback based on student performance.

“I monitor student progress in Revel and it's really easy within the platform to do that. The newer dashboard does things a little bit differently than the old one. I open up the dashboard and the first thing that comes up is what is going on with my students. That's pretty sweet. I can see their average score, where students might be struggling, where there's low activity, time spent, all right when you open it up. It is just right there. It helps you go back and give them individual feedback. I can even email them from right in there and comes from my email address.”

Mike Penrod appreciates the ease with which Revel syncs with his gradebook, making monitoring student progress a smooth process.

“One of the things I really love is that Revel syncs with my gradebook very nicely. I don't have to go looking back at what everybody has been doing and I can see what's been done in there. Revel makes it a pretty simple process.”

Creating an online community

SharedWriting assignments help Mike Penrod and John Baker establish dialogue between students, which can be challenging in an online environment.

“I really like the SharedWriting assignments. They are like discussions in a lot of ways. Now that we are stuck totally online, they help to build some type of community.”

A highlight of the SharedWriting assignments for Suzanne Thibault is the currency of the topics and true-to-life scenarios they offer students.

“I really like the SharedWriting as they are helpful as discussion questions. What I like most about that is that the publisher uses real life scenarios and their content is up-to-date, the very latest content.”

“You want your students to be able to be marketable when they get out of school. You want them to walk right into the profession with the skill they need to do their job. So, what Revel did was offer real life experiences to the students so they could apply a skill set in practice that mimics reality.”

Learn more about Revel Criminal Justice & Efficacy at Pearson

Learn more about how Revel Criminal Justice could benefit your course by visiting:

pearsonhighered.com/revel/educators/browse-products/disciplines/criminal-justice.html

The Efficacy & Learning team uses the science of learning to ensure Pearson products help learners achieve better outcomes.

* To see how Revel improves results, read our audited, peer reviewed correlational research, which spans multiple Revel titles: pearson.com/news-and-research/efficacy

Top tips for using Revel Criminal Justice

The majority of Mike Penrod's course assignments come from Revel. He weighs it heavily at 70-80% and suggests other instructors consider weighing it heavily as well. "I let students know from the get-go (how much of the course grade comes from Revel) and it is definitely enough incentive for them to participate and engage with the material."

Mark Eger agrees that Revel should be weighed heavily. "I would recommend Revel at 100% of the course grade because if your goal is to have students engaged in an online format and get something out of it, Revel is a benefit."

John Baker understands all the content in Revel is purposeful and beneficial, therefore he recommends those newly adopting Revel utilize all the resources. "I suggest new users explore all the resources Revel has to offer. All that content is there for a reason. I use all the resources that are available. I didn't at first and now that I do, I will absolutely continue to use them all. I would just say to use all the resources and to trust those resources."

When first adopting Revel, Mark Eger spent time exploring Revel and all the assessments to better understand it from his students' perspective. "For the first half of the semester I went through Revel chapter by chapter and quiz by quiz to see what it was like to navigate Revel and the time commitment required from it. That's when I became a believer it was good and I was learning stuff too."