Mc Graw Hill connect®

Success Story

University of Houston

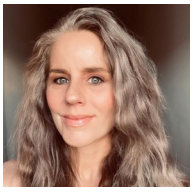


The Challenge

Professor Lisa Alastuey implemented McGraw Hill's Connect platform in her Introduction to Nutrition course to address several educational challenges of online teaching: proctoring assessments, personalizing the learning experience, and ensuring high-level technical support.

Professor Alastuey aimed to deliver up-to-date nutrition content to her students through a user-friendly platform. Connect's regularly updated resources ensured that students received the most current information in the field of nutrition. Another goal was to offer diverse learning opportunities by incorporating various educational tools built into Connect such as chapter assignments, assessments, virtual labs, NutritionCalc Plus, and PowerPoint lectures. This diversity catered to different learning styles and enhanced student engagement. Providing students with access to a responsive technical support team was crucial. Professor Alastuey wanted to ensure that any technical issues or barriers encountered in the online course could be quickly resolved, allowing students to focus on learning.

> **One of the main reasons I chose to adopt Connect was the convenience and accessibility of Proctoring Enabled Chapter Assessments. Another factor in my decision was the inclusion of SmartBook® chapters. Lastly, Connect's helpful instructor support and online resources sealed the deal for me."**
>
> – Lisa Alastuey



Lisa Alastuey, EdD
Clinical Professor
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Houston, Texas

Implementation

Course Grade Breakdown:

Connect Proctoring Enabled Chapter Assessments – 66%

Connect Proctoring Enabled Comprehensive Final Exam – 10%

NutritionCalc Plus All Daily Reports – 8%

Canvas Discussion Board – 15%

Canvas Syllabus Quiz – 1%

Professor Alastuey's implementation of Connect includes a comprehensive integration of various assignments and assessments designed to enhance student learning and ensure academic integrity. Professor Alastuey begins by introducing students to Connect with a Proctoring Enabled "Practice" Assessment. "This ungraded assessment is available all semester, allowing students unlimited attempts to familiarize themselves with the proctoring software," explains Professor Alastuey. This practice session is crucial for troubleshooting technical issues and ensuring students are comfortable using their webcams before taking graded assessments.

For the core of the coursework, Professor Alastuey assigns 10 Proctoring Enabled Chapter Assessments throughout the semester, each worth 40 points. "These assessments consist of 40 multiple-choice and true/false questions and are timed for 60 minutes," says Professor Alastuey. Students are allowed two attempts per assessment, with the highest score recorded in the Canvas gradebook. Detailed feedback is provided after the due date to aid in student review and comprehension. The assessments are scheduled meticulously, and students must adhere to the deadlines as make-up opportunities are not available. "This structure not only promotes consistent study habits but also helps in managing course workload effectively," adds Professor Alastuey.

Students take a Comprehensive Final Exam covering chapters 1 through 10, consisting of 60 questions and timed for 75 minutes. Similar to the chapter assessments, students have two attempts to achieve their best possible score. Additionally, Professor Alastuey incorporates weekly assignments averaging three per week, including McGraw Hill Virtual Labs for practice and NutritionCalc Plus assignments. The latter involves students creating dietary profiles and analyzing their nutritional intake and activities over two days, culminating in a reflective report submitted via Canvas. "These varied assignments ensure a robust and engaging learning experience, leveraging Connect's diverse tools to support and assess student learning," concludes Professor Alastuey.

> “Connect proved invaluable as I collaborated closely with my McGraw Hill representative and technical support to set up my class effectively. Connect offers comprehensive orientation videos and activities, facilitating students' familiarity with the course structure and content. Moreover, Connect's abundance of instructor and student support resources played a pivotal role in my Connect implementation.”



The Results

Professor Alastuey collaborated closely with her McGraw Hill representative and technical support team to set up her class effectively to achieve her goals. This collaboration ensured that the course was well-structured and that students could navigate the platform easily. Connect offered comprehensive orientation videos and activities, helping students familiarize themselves with the course structure and content. Additionally, Connect's abundance of instructor and student support resources played a pivotal role in achieving her educational objectives.

Impact on Lecture Content and Preparation

Connect significantly improved Professor Alastuey's class organization and preparation. Connect's comprehensive and current material, along with its support resources, allowed her to focus more on teaching rather than administrative tasks. The implementation of Connect enabled Professor Alastuey to allocate more time to teaching by reducing the need for extensive chapter reviews during class sessions. The efficiency of PowerPoint lectures, Proctoring Enabled Chapter Assessments, SmartBook, and chapter assignments facilitated this shift.

Less Time Grading – More Time Teaching

Connect's automatic grading system for chapter assignments and assessments significantly enhanced the efficiency of Professor Alastuey's grading process. Connect saved her considerable time and effort, allowing her to dedicate more time to student interaction and instruction.

Changes in Student Engagement

Professor Alastuey observed greater student communication with both her and the course material as a result of using Connect. Students became more actively involved with Connect assignments, even those not graded. Students also became more tech-savvy and comfortable with being recorded on a webcam, an essential skill in an increasingly digital learning environment. This comfort with technology translated into more effective participation in online learning activities.

Impact on Quiz and Exam Scores

Professor Alastuey noted a significant improvement in student performance on quizzes and exams. Specifically, when students were allowed to retake chapter assessments, their grades improved by at least 20%. This improvement underscores the effectiveness of Connect's learning tools and resources in enhancing student understanding and retention of course material.

Lisa Alastuey's implementation of Connect in her Introduction to Nutrition course at the University of Houston has proven to be highly successful. Connect's convenience, accessibility, and comprehensive support resources helped her achieve her goals of delivering up-to-date content, offering diverse learning opportunities, and providing strong technical support. The positive impact on lecture content, preparation time, grading efficiency, student engagement, and academic performance highlights the value of Connect in modernizing and enhancing the educational experience.

