Mc Graw Hill SIMnet®

Success Story

Metropolitan State University of Denver



Challenge

Creating a seamless, accessible, and adaptive learning experience.

Solution

SIMnet® – a training and assessment platform for developing students' skills in Microsoft Office applications.

Result

Higher scores, digital credentials and career-ready students.

> **SIMpaths allowed us to personalize learning, simplify access, and improve student outcomes—all in one platform.**



Alysyn Harvey-Green

Senior Lecturer Computer Information Systems

The Challenge

Before adopting SIMnet, Professor Alysyn Harvey-Green and her team at Metropolitan State University of Denver faced persistent challenges delivering a consistent, equitable learning experience across their student population. “The platform we were using didn’t offer an online environment, so students had to install Microsoft Office on their personal devices,” said Professor Harvey-Green. “This led to significant issues, since students were working with different versions and operating systems.”

The university needed a streamlined, online solution that would allow all students to access the same version of course materials without the need for complex software installations. SIMnet's simulation-based platform offered just that—and more.

In addition to standard lessons and projects, Professor Harvey-Green implemented SIMpaths, SIMnet’s three-step adaptive learning and assessment tool. SIMpaths begin with a pre-test, tailor the lesson based on student performance, and conclude with a post-test that reinforces mastery.

> **“We wanted a platform that simplified the user experience, improved student success, and made it easier for faculty to track performance. SIMnet—and especially SIMpaths—helped us achieve those goals.”**

The Solution

Since Fall 2014, Metropolitan State University of Denver has integrated SIMnet into its curriculum, with 100% of coursework conducted through the platform. The breakdown includes 52% SIMpaths, 34% projects, 7% quizzes, 5% exams, and 2% lessons.

“We transitioned to SIMpaths specifically for Microsoft Office assignments,” explained Professor Harvey-Green. “This change was based on student feedback and has helped streamline our instruction while making the learning experience more personalized.”

SIMpaths enable students to take a pre-test, which identifies learning gaps and builds a tailored lesson. After completing the interactive Let Me Try exercises, students take a post-test, which is then recorded in the gradebook.

Quizzes on cyber awareness and digital literacy complement SIMpaths, while an integrated capstone project brings together skills from Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Students also complete two exams and a cumulative final covering computing fundamentals.

“SIMpaths let us deliver adaptive, targeted content to each student, helping them master Microsoft Office and computing concepts in a format that works for them.”

> **“SIMpaths personalize the learning journey while reducing the frustration of one-size-fits-all instruction.”**

SIMnet’s reporting tools further enhance instruction. “We use the reports to identify which concepts students are struggling with,” said Professor Harvey-Green. “This lets us adjust our lectures and offer targeted one-on-one support.”

The Results

The implementation of SIMnet and SIMpaths has resulted in a marked improvement in student outcomes. “Passing rates are a lot better,” said Professor Harvey-Green. “And our average exam scores went from 75% to 83% after switching to a more student-friendly, open-book testing format.”

Students have also responded positively to SIMnet’s digital badges, which offer verified credentials in Microsoft Office skills. “They love them,” said Professor Harvey-Green. “They upload them to LinkedIn and include them on their resumes. It’s a way to show proof of their computer literacy to employers.”

> **“SIMnet badges give students verified proof of their tech skills—something they can proudly share with employers.”**

SIMnet’s extended access also ensures students can revisit their course content long after the class ends, providing lasting value that supports both academic and career growth.

Conclusion

SIMnet has transformed how MSU Denver delivers digital literacy and Microsoft Office instruction. Its flexibility, ease of use, and adaptive learning features have helped improve both engagement and academic performance.

“There are many positive outcomes to using SIMnet,” said Professor Harvey-Green. “But my favorite part is how customizable it is. You can create targeted assignments that match your students’ needs exactly.”

> **“SIMnet is flexible, easy to use, and incredibly powerful for personalized learning.”**

Instructor Bio

Professor Alysyn Harvey-Green has more than a decade of experience in academic advising, career development, and student services. Her expertise spans transfer services, project management, curriculum development, and software analysis. As a leader and educator, she is committed to helping students achieve academic and professional success.

Setting

Metropolitan State University of Denver is a comprehensive public university located in the heart of downtown Denver. With a mission to provide an accessible, enriching education to a diverse student body, MSU Denver emphasizes hands-on learning, academic excellence, and community engagement. The university is known for its strong programs in business, education, science, and technology.

