

## INSTRUCTOR WIN STORY

# Constructive online homework that motivates students is key.

## THE TEACHING CHALLENGE

## Students unable to apply what they learned in class to their homework.

When you teach a challenging topic like Chemistry, there are many students who come to class lacking the adequate knowledge or skills they need to be successful. This was the case for Erick Moffett, Chemistry and Biology Instructor, at Pearl River Community College. Unfortunately, **the online homework system he was using then, Mastering Chemistry, failed to provide the right content and motivation** to help struggling students master difficult concepts.

*"We were using an outdated online homework system,"* Moffett reported. *"We'd have to evaluate each question. You couldn't trust the app enough to have it pull questions from one section or another."*

*"The other problem was, the questions in that system weren't tied to anything in the book or the lecture slides,"* he continued. *"The questions were either too simple to be effective or too difficult for my students to answer. They would just end up pasting the more difficult questions into Google or Chegg to find answers quickly."*

## THE ACTION PLAN

## Change online homework platforms.

Moffett decided to switch to ALEKS® — an adaptive online learning platform, for the Fall 2019 semester, to see if would help increase student preparedness.

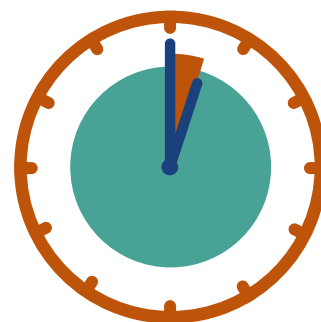
ALEKS uses Artificial Intelligence to determine what students know and don't know upon entering the course and provides them with a personalized learning experience to help them master those topics.



Erick Moffett, Chemistry and Biology  
Instructor at Pearl River Community College

## BENCHMARK DATA

FALL 2018



39.4

MINUTES/WEEK

AVERAGE TIME SPENT IN  
MASTERING CHEMISTRY SYSTEM

## 3 KEY INSTRUCTOR GOALS

- 1 MOTIVATE STRUGGLING STUDENTS
- 2 PROVIDE SUFFICIENT GUIDANCE
- 3 INCREASE TIME PRACTICING

## THE RESULTS

# Students increased practice time and preparedness.

AVERAGE TIME IN ONLINE HOMEWORK SYSTEM	SEMESTER	AVG TIME/WK
Mastering Chemistry	Fall 2018	39.4 min/wk
ALEKS Chemistry	Fall 2019	2.8 hrs/wk
ALEKS Chemistry	Spring 2020	2.2 hrs/wk
ALEKS Chemistry	Fall 2020	3.8 hrs/wk

\*Time online includes time spent on all assignments, including learning mode and review quizzes.

## WHY IT WORKS



### MOTIVATES STUDENTS

"You can see your progress in ALEKS in the pie progress percentage, Moffett said. "So, it encourages students to think, 'I can get a 100 on this; I just have to get through it.' ALEKS supports students with resources like Explanations and students can practice and do it as long as they want without fear of penalty."



### ENCOURAGES PRACTICE

"If a student works their hardest in a homework platform, and gets it wrong, that's demoralizing," Moffett stresses. "ALEKS doesn't demoralize students. They don't have to worry about losing points or not getting an explanation for why an answer is what it is — that's all there in ALEKS. Students can take it one topic at a time and go at their own pace."



### TRANSITIONS SMOOTHLY

"The ALEKS implementation Team was so quick in working with us and making it go as smooth as possible," Moffett said. "I think the engineers at ALEKS do a great job. The app looks as if it was developed in Silicon Valley. It doesn't look like it was built in the 90s."

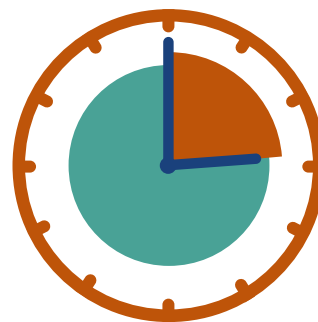


### INCREASES STUDENT SATISFACTION

"Dr. Moffett is not only a great teacher, but a great mentor," said one of Moffett's students. "He makes sure to connect with everyone on a personal level and wants everyone to succeed and does his absolute best to make sure this happens. When I found out he was teaching Chemistry 2, I was already knocking on my counselor's door, ready to sign up for next semester."

## PROGRESS DATA

FALL 2019, SPRING 2020, FALL 2020



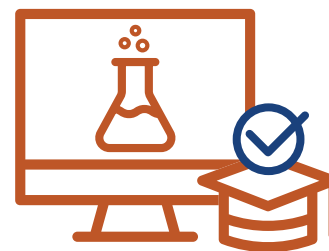
2.9

HOURS/WEEK

COMBINED AVERAGE TIME  
SPENT IN ALEKS

## RECENT DATA

SUMMER 2021



23/25

STUDENTS USED ALEKS

ALL PASSED AND ACHIEVED  
THE GRADE THEY NEEDED

Ready to explore your  
move to ALEKS?

CONTACT THE ALEKS TEAM TODAY

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ALEKS.COM