

SmarterMeasure

Learning readiness indicator



Case Study of National University College and SmarterMeasure





CHALLENGE

DIAGNOSTICS ON STUDENT READINESS

In 2007, National University College (NUC) located in San Juan, Puerto Rico began offering online courses. The distance education department was formed in 2009, offering its first online degree program. In the process, NUC felt it was essential to have a diagnostic tool that would provide both the potential online student and its distance education department with feedback regarding the basic skills required to be a successful online student. Although students were offered a self evaluation questionnaire about their readiness for online learning, this self assessment provided no real student data, and could not possibly diagnose student readiness for online learning.

SOLUTION

ADDING SMARTERMEASURE LEARNING READINESS INDICATOR

NUC began utilizing SmarterMeasure in early 2009, to address their need for a comprehensive online learning readiness tool. Prospective students are introduced to the learning readiness indicator when they attend an informational appointment set up by an admissions counselor. Although the diagnostic is administered during this meeting, it is not an admissions requirement. “We feel that getting this done at the student’s first meeting is crucial to help administrators guide the student in making an informed decision about conducting their studies online,” says Julio A. Lopez, Director of Distance Education at NUC. The SmarterMeasure learning readiness indicator is an academic diagnostic requirement for prospects and current students who wish to study online at NUC. The analytics that the administrative panel provides a clear picture of the skill level of NUC students in relation to distance learning. In addition, the student receives a report that defined areas of strengths and opportunities for improvement.

The logo for SmarterMeasure, featuring a stylized red and white icon to the left of the text "SmarterMeasure" in a bold, sans-serif font.

**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE'S
JULIO A. LOPEZ, DIRECTOR OF
DISTANCE LEARNING**

Getting student data at the beginning is crucial to being prepared to help students be successful.

SMARTERMEASURE LEARNING READINESS INDICATOR

Web based diagnostic tool that quantifies a learner's readiness to learn in an alternative learning environment like online. It measures 6 areas of readiness.

- ◆ Individual Attributes
- ◆ Learning Styles
- ◆ Life Factors
- ◆ Technical Competency & Skills
- ◆ On-Screen Reading Rate & Recall
- ◆ Typing Speed & Accuracy

JULIO A. LOPEZ, DIRECTOR OF DISTANCE LEARNING

"SmarterMeasure helps to bring a quantifiable perspective to a student's decision to study online and helps our institution capture data that is crucial in defining who our online student is as well as how our offerings and programs should be structured."



IMPACT

With a relatively new online program, NUC is consistently looking for ways to make their program unique and provide the students with a complete experience. Establishing guidelines of how to help the student from the beginning is one of NUC's strengths. They recognize the importance of establishing a relationship based on needs met.

SmarterMeasure provides that information which students aren't always willing to share about themselves or may not even be aware of. "SmarterMeasure helps to bring a quantifiable perspective to a student's decision to study online and helps our institution capture data that is crucial in defining who our online student is as well as how our offerings and programs should be structured," Mr. Lopez adds. Whether it is to confirm their strengths or point out opportunities for improvement, students agree the feedback SmarterMeasure gives is very helpful. Students generally learn something new about themselves which has a direct impact on their ability to do well in an online environment. Over 1000 students have taken SmarterMeasure and NUC says it has most definitely helped to impact retention because it allows them to identify and quantify the basic skills that an online learner is required to have to be successful in online learning.

ABOUT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

1. Founded in 1982 as an educational institute.
2. Began offering online courses in 2007.
3. Formed a distance education dept. in 2009 offering its first online degree program.
4. Only degree granting institution in the commonwealth of Puerto Rico to feature a centralized online education dept.
5. Approximately 600 students studying online.



SMARTERSERVICES

SmarterServices (formerly eLearningToolBox) provides the following four products: (1) SmarterMeasure - learning readiness indicator, (2) SmarterSurveys - automated data collection survey system, (3) SmarterFaculty - searchable database of thousands of faculty who want to teach online, and (4) SmarterProctors - searchable database of neutral proctors to administer high stakes exams. Our mission is to organize and analyze data that empowers people to make smarter decisions. We help you obtain data about your students, faculty, teachers, employees, and courses. Data-driven decisions create strong strategic plans, maximize efficiency, and foster an environment of learning - learning from our mistakes, learning about best practices, and learning how to do things better. Learn more at SmarterServices.com.



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