



Syllabi That Pass The Test

A cornerstone of accreditation at Webster University

Consistency Challenges

Webster University had many of the same concerns about syllabus management that most institutions have, but at a massive scale both geographically and numerically. They wanted to be able to be able to monitor syllabus creation and revision across multiple campuses and have a central repository for syllabi. With 50+ campuses on four continents serving over 10,000 students, that alone was no small task.

The biggest challenge they faced, however, was creating consistency in their syllabi. The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) has strict standards for syllabus consistency that the university needed to meet. A highly mobile student population - including members of the armed forces who could be ordered to relocate at any time - required that every student receive the same syllabus experience in any course regardless of where it was delivered.

Both required making sure that all syllabi for the same course were up-to-date and consistent, no matter where the course was being taught or by whom. They also needed to limit faculty from modifying the content of certain portions of syllabi or changing the organization and presentation of the syllabus as a whole.

First Steps

Webster began by developing an in-house system to address shortcomings in their process. A syllabus repository and template documents provided some structure and improvements. However, the system left much to be desired. The volume of syllabi created additional problems for storage and support for the IT department, and the lack of auditing and reporting capabilities made tracking syllabus creation and revisions from over 1,500 faculty members around the world nearly impossible for administrators. The in-house system also did not address any of the more urgent concerns about ensuring consistency.

Highlights

Met strict ACBSP accreditation guidelines for syllabus consistency.

Provided significant time savings of thousands of hours annually for faculty and administrators.

Improved the student experience for over 10,000 students.

Transitioned from an in-house application and freed up IT resources.



Enter Concourse

That's where Concourse came in. Webster's team envisioned a platform that would provide more consistency in syllabi across all campuses and courses. In addition, they wanted a solution that would streamline the processes currently in place to accommodate the volume of syllabi being produced. The streamlining of processes also necessitated the ability to run reports within the system to be able to quickly monitor the status of syllabi across all campuses.

Consistency is one of the areas where Concourse shines brightest. The tiered template structure that Concourse provides meant that administrators could add accurate and precise information to syllabi at the institutional, campus, and departmental level that would then appear consistently on all syllabi within those areas. They could then lock those fields to prevent changes from being made, ensuring that faculty only edited the portions of the syllabi that were specific to their course. Structured templates also created consistency in how the information was presented within the syllabus, providing a seamless experience for students across courses and exceeding accreditors' standards.

About us

Since 2007, we have been focused on one thing: helping our clients improve syllabus management. We know what it takes to make the syllabus management process smooth and seamless, and we are ready to help you put this powerful tool to work for your institution.

www.intellidemia.com | info@intellidemia.com | (855) SYLLABUS

Lasting Impact

Concourse improved all aspects of syllabus management for Webster. Beyond eliminating basic concerns about storage and support, the platform provided an intuitive interface for faculty and staff. Most importantly, tiered templates, granular control over editing, and robust reporting combined to provide an unmatched level of consistency in syllabi. With Concourse, they are able to provide a better experience for their students, save time for faculty and administrators, and keep their accreditors happy.

Above and Beyond

Beyond those benefits, Concourse's robust reporting allowed administrators to rapidly assess the status of the huge volume of syllabi generated each semester. Content reports allowed administrators to detect missing or incomplete portions of syllabi and get faculty back on track to address those gaps. The ability to generate reports targeting select syllabus content across large swaths of syllabi also provided clear and focused information for their accrediting body, saving significant time over manual compilation of reports.

About Webster University

Established in 1915 by the Sisters of Loretto, who sought to make education accessible to all, Webster has an extraordinary history reflecting a determination to equalize higher education.

Recognizing the growing interconnectedness of our world, for 40 years we have been building a network of campuses to serve local communities. Today, we serve more than 10,000 students across 50 residential, metro, military, and international locations.

“A site director said that Concourse saves her 50 hours per term. Add that up over an academic year, then multiply by the number of campuses we have, and the value is unprecedented.”

Pat Masidonski
Associate Dean