



Syllabi and Compliance

A full implementation effort to meet Texas HB 2504 standards at Angelina College

Inconsistent Guidance

Angelina College's (AC) mission is to provide quality educational opportunities and services to students throughout the service area. The mission is manifested through the variety of programs offered, individualized student support services, and numerous off-campus instructional sites in Deep East Texas. When the College underwent a software conversion in early 2019, it prompted a review of the current syllabus management process and a number of inconsistencies surfaced within the syllabi.

Over the years, faculty committees had developed and revised standardized syllabus templates intended to create a uniform message to the campus community. Despite employing a syllabus template, incorrect information was still finding its way onto the course and department-level documents, resulting in confusion and misinformation.

Since the College needed a new solution to make course information public in the fall of 2019, Angelina needed a tool that would seamlessly and swiftly unify syllabi at the institutional level, yet also provide autonomy for instructors to edit their individual course sections. Consistency between the main campus in Lufkin and their off-campus instructional sites was imperative – especially since multiple teams at the institution would need to access the syllabi.

First Steps

Recognizing the need for accurate information across all locations, Angelina set out in search of a solution that would integrate with Blackboard and Jenzabar EX, their student information system (SIS). They wanted something they could work directly in or in conjunction with Blackboard to manage syllabus information from a central location. It was a must that this new platform allow for multi-level access points to different roles on campus, including

Highlights

Met Texas HB 2504 requirements for public access to course information.

Seamlessly managed syllabi for multiple-locations.

Integrated with both Blackboard and Jenzabar EX to remove any roadblocks to progress.

Enabled faculty to remain the authors of specific course-level details without risking institution-wide language and policy.

About TX House Bill 2504

Adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 2009, HB2504 requires that each institution of higher education, other than a medical and dental unit, make available certain course information to the public on the institution's website. In addition, the university must post information about work-study opportunities and departmental budgets.



Concourse

IT, faculty, Academic Affairs, program directors, and more. A dedicated team was identified to administer such a tool, and the plans were put in motion.

Let's Get Started

Full-implementation of a new solution can be a heavy lift. There are a lot of moving parts and people involved, and when you have 10 locations spread throughout a region, the logistics can be quite complex. Aside from these challenges, Angelina College had the added pressure of the public microscope legislatively positioned over their course material and policies. It would be no small feat to get everything and *everyone* rowing in the same direction.

Concourse Starter came into play in the spring of 2019 – just in time to test its capabilities for the first summer session beginning in late May. Face-to-face and online, real-time training for administrators and instructors began and courses were uploaded with no issues weeks before students and faculty were called back into the classroom for Summer Session I. And better still, it complied with HB 2504 with succinct and accurate data.

Getting comfortable with Concourse Starter that summer, the Angelina team successfully designed and uploaded a uniform syllabus

template by early August in plenty of time for the fall semester. Now it was time for full-implementation.

Happily in Compliance

With their full SIS conversion behind them, the college's fall semester implementation of Concourse went smoothly. Not only were all syllabi consistent at all locations, faculty and program directors were enjoying the freedom of enriching their syllabi with specific course information – none of which jeopardized the overarching framework or policies the college needed to publish. With Concourse, Angelina College was well on their way to mastering syllabus management.

A Long-Term Solution

In addition to fortifying consistent information across all syllabi, Concourse has enabled the college to maintain a centralized approach to managing course and institution-level information with ease and confidence. Faculty no longer need to gather to “rework” templates, freeing them to focus on what's most important – teaching their students – and college administrations have the peace of mind knowing they have consistent messaging within syllabi. For Angelina, Concourse became an effective solution in the search for a long-term syllabus management solution.

About Angelina College

Located in the heart of East Texas, Angelina College provides a wide variety of technical programs, courses and cutting-edge facilities to equip you on your road to success. With just over 4,000 students enrolled, you will be part of a “Rowdy Roadrunner” community. Connect and serve alongside our diverse population and you're sure to build lasting relationships.

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

“ Though hesitant at first, simply because it was change, faculty have all come to realize how much easier Concourse is. ”

Stacy Pfluger
Assistant VP of
Academic Affairs