Leadership Cultivated Through Technology

Enhancing the student experience through better syllabus management

An Interruption of Service

For almost 125 years, Dallas Baptist University (DBU) has ensured that students graduate as servant leaders through the integration of faith and learning. While faith has been a stable, guiding force, ways of learning have shifted and changed over the years. New technologies were introduced to enhance the teaching and learning experience through the decades, but one such technological solution was still missing from campus – an efficient syllabus management platform that could integrate with other campus systems.

While DBU had a proprietary application that housed syllabus information, it did not meet all the needs of faculty and administrators. Those needing to access accurate and timely reports on the completion of the syllabi were at the mercy of manual pulls, resulting in little to no control over traditional courses. Online and hybrid courses fared only slightly better, as their syllabus forms were available and monitored over the web. Despite having excellent acceptance of an existing syllabus template, faculty didn't have a clear path to easily create their own syllabi each semester and had

to resort to requesting the most current syllabus language to update previous syllabi. Most importantly, the in-house solution didn't integrate with the learning management system (LMS), preventing students from having quick and easy access to course information and updates.

With two campuses, nine colleges, and numerous programs, DBU required a robust syllabus platform that could accommodate many users at different levels throughout the year. The platform needed to render reports on-demand, integrate with the LMS, and play a strategic part in helping learners become leaders.

First Steps

In order to successfully introduce a new technology and ensure faculty adoption of an online syllabus management system, DBU first needed to address challenges and provide faculty with an intuitive and hassle-free way to create their course syllabi each semester. Another imperative was to confirm that the new syllabi would be easily accessible for students, many of whom rely on a smart devices. These needs, combined with the other gaps in their existing systems, convinced DBU that they would need to look for

Highlights

Built a student-centered syllabus management platform to further support their mission of student-centered education

Gained access to vast reporting capabilities for administrators and faculty

Created a seamless integration between Blackboard and Concourse to increase engagement

Developed tools to help with long-term training and end-user support

Concourse

a new approach to syllabus management.

Enter Concourse

DBU's search for a better syllabus management solution led them to Concourse. Based on implementation decisions made by institution leaders, DBU jumped into Concourse to test and train their campus community. This phase allowed users – faculty and students alike – to fully experience the functionality and features of the platform.

Once testing was complete, administrators created institutional and college/course level templates, and integrated the platform with Blackboard. This integration was key to providing faculty and students the seamless access to course information and updates that previously sometimes got lost in the shuffle. A direct link to login to the Concourse platform was also made available, creating another avenue for students and faculty to stay informed and connected.

A well-equipped and well-trained campus community was vital to DBU's success in using Concourse to manage course syllabi. Determined to maintain their high standards of usage, the university designated their Online Education Department, the IT Helpdesk, and a team of trained administrators to lead the charge by providing further training and ongoing support to faculty and students.

An Efficient Home

DBU is now fully immersed in the Concourse platform, and the campus community is enjoying role-based, integrated access to course information, policies, historical data, and reports. Standard content is effortlessly rendered onto each and every syllabus, providing a consistent and accurate message to faculty and students.

Roadblocks that once took faculty focus off of students have been lifted, as the new platform makes syllabi creation a delight each and every semester. Instructors can now spend more time teaching, coaching, and guiding students' growth.

The Future

Bringing together an entire university with more than one location under the roof of a single syllabus management platform is no small task, but DBU proves it can be done, and done well. With syllabi in a single centralized and easily-accessible system, faculty and administrators can focus on the college's primary mission: transforming students' lives. As DBU continues to grow, Concourse will help them ensure students have the information they need to grow in knowledge and faith and become stronger professionals and leaders in their fields.

About Dallas Baptist University

Founded in 1898, Dallas Baptist University (DBU) has one mission — to transform the lives of students who will transform the world, all for the glory of God.

They offer a variety of educational opportunities for individuals of all ages and academic backgrounds — including degree programs at the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels, as well as continuing education and certificate programs.

Through it all, they seek to integrate faith and learning and develop individuals whose desire is to serve the world.

" Our syllabi look more professional, clean, and uniform. And, it's nice to be able to update syllabi in real time! "

Judy Yi
Associate Dean

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