

Health Science Students Conquer NOCTI with HealthCenter21



Carbon Career and Technical Center

SCHOOL TYPE:

Career and Technical Institute

COURSE TITLE:

• Health Medical Nurse Assisting

CONTACT:

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<http://www.carboncti.org/main/index.htm>

Michele Dominic is a health science teacher at Carbon Career and Technical Institute. She teaches Health Medical Nurse Assisting to 10th through 12th graders.

Michele has fairly structured, required content to cover in her course. So it's very important that any resources that she uses in her classroom very closely align with what she teaches. Fortunately for Michele, "HealthCenter21 aligns very closely with what I teach," she says.

In true blended learning style, Michele uses HealthCenter21 "as an adjunct." Students read a textbook, follow her lecture, and then are assigned HealthCenter21. "It's the 3rd time they see the info," she shares. Students typically do it at home. She gives them a module or two and gives a due date.

The NOCTI Connection

Michele's students take the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) exam for Nursing Assisting. She uses HealthCenter21 to create pre-tests to help students prepare for the NOCTI exam. Since introducing HealthCenter21 as a resource in her classroom, "ALL students were advanced this year and all have passed Nurse Aide Competency exam."

Is that an improvement? "It's an improvement. There were times I would have one or two students come up as Competent, but since I've been using HealthCenter21 this year and last year, I have 100% Advanced," Michele says.

Conquering Absenteeism

More than just another source of content, HealthCenter21 is a great classroom management tool.

During state testing, Michele has to deal

with a lot of student absences. "During Keystone testing students are in and out all day long," she explains. She can keep students caught up by assigning HealthCenter21 to students that miss class.

And being involved with HOSA, Michele herself has to be absent from class. But when she's out, "I can assign them HealthCenter21. So when away, I can check in and make sure that the students are on-task. If they aren't, I can call in and find out what is going on," she says.

Improving Student Grades

It turns out that both Michele's and her students' favorite thing about HealthCenter21 is that it has helped students bring up their grades.

Michele says, "It really improves their grades for one thing. It can help them with the grades and help prepare them for their standardized testing." Along those lines, Michele also likes that "for some kids, it takes a little longer to learn things. I use this as a modification for those that struggle with testing," she explains. She has them take quizzes up to three times, to help them with their grades. "It really helps them almost like an extra credit for those students," she adds.

She shared that students also "like that it can pull their grades up when they saw how it helped with NOCTI exams. (They did pre-NOCTI tests and they were able to identify where they had low scores.). And they like working independently and being on the computer rather than a lecture. It's another way for them to learn that is interactive."

The Online Content Library Bonus

No one can argue that better grades isn't a great thing. But Michele and her students have gained more than just better grades.

“Since I’ve been using HealthCenter21 this year and last year, I have 100% Advanced on the NOCTI exam,”

Michele Dominic says.

They’ve gained the anytime/anywhere aspect of online learning. When students work on it at home, she gives students her phone number. She’ll get a text on the weekend asking if she can reset a quiz or test. She can log on from home and do that for them.

And on days when she has a lot of work to do and she needs that time, “I can assign HealthCenter21 in class and know that they are on-task.”

And with the extensive library of content available, Michele even helps students learn how to use Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint. “Some kids don’t know how to use [Microsoft] PowerPoint and Excel. So I’ll assign those modules. I won’t test them, but it allows them to learn how to master these programs that will help them in their health care career.”



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