

Online Supplement Curriculum, HealthCenter21, Checks All the Boxes



Grossmont Health Occupations Center (HOC)

SCHOOL TYPE:

Adult Education Center

COURSE TITLE:

•Medical Assistant

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Director, Carol Otjens, and teacher, Maria Chavez, are from the Grossmont Health Occupations Center (HOC) in Santee, CA. HOC is part of the Grossmont Adult School in the Grossmont Union High School District. The campus, which encompasses a wide variety of health care educational programs, has been in existence for over 30 years.

Why they use HealthCenter21 vs. eBooks

One of Carol Otjens' teachers was at a conference and heard about HealthCenter21 and picked up a brochure and shared it with her. "We were looking for a program like this. We didn't want eBooks. A supplement to our existing texts was what we were looking for." Teachers are using it as a supplement, along with a typical paper textbook and work books, PowerPoints, and handouts. Although the campus has really good labs for when students have a break from theory and lecture, this additional resource is being well received. "I love this program. I wish it had been around when I was teaching," says Otjens.

When asked how HealthCenter21 meets their needs over eBooks, Otjens explains, "We find that our population likes the idea of paper/highlighter aspect of an actual textbook. Also, we have just one computer lab with 30 computers. With an eBook, all the classes would have to be in there all the time. For our setup, it would be too complicated. We just wanted a supplement."

How they use HealthCenter21

Grossmont teacher, Maria Chavez, explains how she integrates HealthCenter21 into her full Medical Assisting Clinical course. Her students, who range in age from 19-55, meet Monday through Thursday every week. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, students have skills labs. On Mondays and Wednesdays, they review content with

lectures, PowerPoints, and discussion.

"Depending on what we are doing, I found that HealthCenter21 has a lot of the things we cover," Chavez says. After lecture they head over to the computer lab for 1 ½ hours. This is when Chavez assigns HealthCenter21 modules. Students work independently through them and take the included quizzes and tests. Chavez likes that when they regroup to discuss topics again, students are able to say, "Oh, well the module said this about that..." She assigns a whole module at a time and gives an end date for it.

Why Directors Like HealthCenter21

Here are two reasons, according to Otjens...

- 1) In the medical field, students need to be comfortable in front of computer; charting, scheduling, etc. "HOC needs to provide advanced technology experiences for students. HealthCenter21 gives students an enhanced learning environment in front of a computer."
- 2) The things students aren't able to touch, feel, and see in person, like anatomy and physiology, are hard topics to learn through just a lecture. Health Center 21 provides the content to them in a much more comprehensive way. They review the information in three ways: visual, audio, and computer interaction. This engages the learners to think about the topic in a different way. It also improves student achievement! To have somebody other than a teacher explain it, to sit in front of the computer and interact with it as a supplement, that is awesome."

Why Students like HealthCenter21

When asked if students were responding well to HealthCenter21, Otjens replied, "Absolutely!" She also gave an example of how well students are responding. "We started A&P class for the vocational nursing

“HOC needs to provide advanced technology experiences for students. HealthCenter21 gives students an enhanced learning environment in front of a computer,”

says Carol Otjens.

program and the amount of info given out was challenging for the students to get in such a short period of time. The students need to keep going over and over content. They can't expect to just absorb the content in the classroom and through homework. So, we bought MORE licenses and put all of our new A&P students on HealthCenter21. The teachers introduced it, gave classroom time to use it, and assigned most for homework and review. Students were then quizzed on the modules in Health Center 21.” After using HealthCenter21 for a week, the students were surveyed and asked about challenges, good and bad. One comment that was threaded through the responses was that adding HealthCenter21 was very helpful and they liked that they could go home and do the work. They really enjoyed it!

Why Teachers like HealthCenter21

Teacher, Maria Chavez, explains what she likes about HealthCenter21 this way, “I like a lot of things...but selfishly I like how it grades everything, which saves a lot of time.” AES knows that there is nothing selfish about appreciating the time-saving aspects of a classroom resource. That's why they are created! Chavez goes on to say, “But most importantly, students come and tell me they like it. The students like the interaction. And they like that they can work at their own paces. They can see where they make mistakes and then go back and do it again.”

HealthCenter21 Solution

As a Director, Otjens has the responsibility of satisfying requirements to get funding for programs like HealthCenter21. Technology is a big requirement right now; whether it is advanced medical technology or computer technology. “They want to know what you are doing and what state-of-the-art industry standards in technology are incorporated into the resources that you are using. Grant funding always asks about the technology we use. HealthCenter21 satisfies the computer part of our technologic needs, not as an eBook, it's because of the interaction. And it's specifically focused on what we are

asking the funding for. It fills that gap that we need to meet,” Otjens explains.

In addition, Otjens says, “Some of today's students are tech savvy and want to be on their phones...while they're waiting in line at the DMV or at the dry cleaners. So instead of playing tic-tac-toe or checking in on social media, they can go to HealthCenter21, do their homework, and get schoolwork accomplished. This satisfies the students desire to incorporate technology into their classes.”

How HealthCenter21 Helps

Maria Chavez credits HealthCenter21 with helping to engage students. Chavez says, “The engagement level has really gone up. Lectures are not really fun. Students really complimented the program, saying “I really like how it will tell and show you something and then ask questions or has a game that goes over what we just learned.”

In addition, Chavez was particularly grateful for the Anatomy and Physiology module in HealthCenter21. She says, “Their textbooks didn't really cover it. When I found the drag and drop pictures with labels in HealthCenter21, I really liked that. I USE it.”

Chavez says that she didn't have HealthCenter21 for her first few courses. The resources she had didn't have ways to show them some of the things they were going over. She had to pull things together from different places in different ways in order to show them what they were going over. They would get the workbook and get the reading, but it just didn't feel like it was enough. HealthCenter21 rounds out these other resources and provides good coverage on topics. And, of course, HealthCenter21 allows students to work independently and from school.



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