

## Online Aspects of HealthCenter21 Helps Busy Adult Learners Prepare for Medical Assistant Certification



### McFatter Technical Center

#### SCHOOL TYPE:

Technical College

#### COURSE TITLES:

- Medical Assisting

#### CONTACT:

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### Situation

Marijean Hippelheuser is the Medical Assisting instructor at McFatter Technical Center in Davie, FL. Hippelheuser's courses are a little unique in that she teaches only adult students. And these adults are working and studying towards becoming certified medical assistants.

### Solution

Teaching adult courses has its own set of challenges, namely, accommodating students that have work schedules and other life commitments. To help meet her students' needs, Hippelheuser's class meets only on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. For the rest of the time, she incorporates "hybrid" learning. TeachThought.com describes hybrid or blended learning this way: "Hybrid education uses online technology to not just supplement, but transform and improve the learning process." And that is an accurate way to describe Hippelheuser's course.

She starts students off with the blended learning resource HealthCenter21. She uses HealthCenter21 for health career core content. All students complete this as an overview of healthcare, accumulating approximately 90 hours, strictly with HealthCenter21. Hippelheuser picks and chooses content from the online library to cover standards for the state. And because the HealthCenter21 library contains a variety of health science content, Hippelheuser is looking to add some of the available medical assisting content into her course, as soon as she has time to check out those units. The combination of in-class learning with HealthCenter21 "covers everything we need it to cover," Hippelheuser says.

### Why it works for Teachers

When asked what she likes best about using HealthCenter21, Hippelheuser explains, "It's so easy to use, for both teachers and students. It's so user-friendly, and I've not had a single problem."

From a pedagogical standpoint, the arrangement of reading, watching, listening, and interacting with the online content interspersed with opportunities to demonstrate and test understanding and knowledge "is great. They have to do them. They cannot by-pass them," Hippelheuser explains.

### Why it works for Students

When asked why HealthCenter21 is a good fit for students, Hippelheuser replies, "The flexibility. As long as they do work by the deadline, they get credit if they turn it in. So if they have to work, they can finish work elsewhere on the weekends and evenings. It's so helpful for adult/working students."

And since students are working through online content outside the classroom, when they come together in class, "they have basics of terminology and A&P. They have a good start, which makes it easier for them to build on in class," says Hippelheuser.

### Certification Preparation

As mentioned earlier, these adult students are working towards medical assisting certification. When they finish Hippelheuser's course, they are all eligible for the certifying exam by American Association of Medical Assistants. And their success rate? Her adult students are about a 100% pass rate.