

Jenzabar Success Story

National College of Natural Medicine: Achieving a 50% enrollment growth and 400% program increase with Jenzabar SONIS

About National College of Natural Medicine

A recognized authority in providing ground-breaking naturopathic medical education for more than 50 years. The college features an experienced and accomplished faculty and is renowned for its excellence in education and research. Many NCNM alumni are at the forefront of natural medicine, becoming international leaders in natural medicine education, research and community health.

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Kelly Garey
Registrar
The National College of
Natural Medicine



The oldest accredited naturopathic medical college in North America is growing fast. Since 2008, the National College of Natural Medicine (NCNM) has quadrupled their number of programs, added two additional schools, and increased enrollment by over 50%. NCNM will also implement their first undergraduate program. That's impressive growth.

The college's rapid expansion means a more robust student community, increased educational opportunities, and, most importantly, more lives changed through education. An enrollment increase of that size also means a swell in administrative workload. Yet, NCNM's Registrar's Office has only added one part-time position in the midst of this surge. How is that possible? NCNM managed its growth with Jenzabar® SONIS, a powerful yet cost effective student information system that improves efficiencies, enhances security, and simplifies tasks across campus.

The screenshot shows the Jenzabar SONIS 3.0 interface. On the left is a navigation sidebar with links for General, Financial, Academics, Custom, and Logout. The main content area is titled "Student Biographic" and shows a photo of Rebecca Harrison. Below her photo are three buttons: TRANSCRIPT, VIEW NOTES, and REQUESTS. To the right of the photo, the date "AUGUST 23, 2018" is displayed. Under "CONTACT INFORMATION", there is an electronic mail link (rjharrison@ncnm.edu) and a telephone number (970-262-1400). Under "ENROLLMENT INFORMATION", details include Campus: MAIN, Dept.: Nursing & Allied Health, Div.: Daytime, Level: Freshman, Program: Nursing, Exam ID: H4049358, ID Number: H4049358, Scheduling Advisor: Dale Johnson, and Advisor: Philip Socrates ("Non-Ad"). Below this, a table titled "TRANSFER COURSES ACCEPTED FOR CREDIT" lists one course: ENG100 from Bowling Green State University, which replaces ENG101 English Composition with 3.00 credits and a grade of B. A note states "Total Transfer Credits: 3.00". Below this is a table titled "COMPLETED COURSES" showing three courses: ART200 History of Modern Art, NUR115 LPN Transition, and CSC200 Visual Basic Programming, all taken in 201314/2. The total earned credits are 9.00, GPA Credits are 9.00, and GPA is 3.33.

Improving efficiency also heightens security

Kelly Garey, Registrar, is at the center of it all. She has been with NCNM since 1996 and is instrumental in the college's growth and transformation.

"When I first started at NCNM, we did everything on paper," says Garey. "We slowly moved to the computer and created a FileMaker database. We used it for our registration, transcripts, and all of that." Although the database helped the Registrar's Office to work more efficiently, it wasn't secure.

"I had the ability to wipe out the entire database," says Garey. "If I hit the wrong button, I could have erased everything with a click. That always made me nervous. I accidentally deleted a student's record once and had to rebuild it from scratch. That was not fun."

In 2006, NCNM implemented Jenzabar SONIS and, thanks to its safeguards, Garey stopped worrying about security and data integrity. "I now know that the student information that I enter is accurate and secure," she says. "I'm more efficient than ever and the student records are safe with Jenzabar SONIS."

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Self-service eases growing pains

The integration of Jenzabar SONIS across NCNM's campus has proven to be a timely and vital decision. "The school has changed a lot in the last several years," says Garey. "We've grown from 400 to 630 students. We started with a single degree—naturopathic medicine. Now we have four different schools offering nine distinct degrees. Adding all of the new programs impacts my office the most. Tracking the different courses and curricula is difficult, but Jenzabar SONIS helps with that, especially with the degree audits."

Degree audits are particularly challenging at specialized schools with lockstep curricula like NCNM. Jenzabar SONIS allows students to access their own personalized degree audit to ensure that they stay on track to graduate. Online self-service makes life easier for both the students and the Registrar's Office. "We've eliminated a lot of paperwork and printed reports because students can just go into Jenzabar SONIS and get everything they need for themselves," says Garey. "Jenzabar SONIS makes degree auditing really easy. In one day, I was able to create four new audits and update a few others as well. That used to take a lot more time and effort."

Academic advisors at NCNM also use Jenzabar SONIS to run degree audits. Then they use the curriculum layout tool to help students determine what courses to take, ensuring they register appropriately. "Everyone is working from the same pool of data," says Garey. "It's hard to remember what life was like before."

Jenzabar SONIS

A powerful yet cost-effective student information system designed specifically for smaller higher education and vocational institutions. Our cloud-based, mobile-ready software connects students, faculty, and administration in one easy-to-use package.

National College of Natural Medicine



Making concurrent degree compliance a breeze

Like every school, NCNM has to be diligent with compliance, but its program complexity presents challenges. "A fourth of our students are concurrent degree students," says Garey. "One of our biggest issues was being able to track all of that for reporting compliance. The solution is Jenzabar SONIS. I can easily determine what happened to every student that entered a program in any year with a simple report."

The sheer number of concurrent degree students had previously made reporting to the National Student Clearinghouse difficult, until Garey talked to Jenzabar SONIS support. "We discussed it, and by the next upgrade

Jenzabar SONIS supported concurrent degree submission to the Clearinghouse," says Garey. "Jenzabar is very good about making sure that Jenzabar SONIS meets all of the compliance standards. If there is an issue, they work on it, come up with a solution, and do an upgrade. The customer service has always been excellent. I trust Jenzabar SONIS because it's more than a product; it's a partnership."

About Jenzabar

Created out of a passion for education and a vision for technology, Jenzabar offers disruptive, innovative software solutions and services that empower students' success and helps higher education institutions meet the demands of the modern student. Over 1,350 higher educational campuses harness Jenzabar solutions for improved performance across campus and a more personalized and connected experience for the student.

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