LaunchPad
macmillan learning

SUCCESS STORY WITH LAUNCHPAD

SUZANNE McCORMACK

INSTRUCTOR:
Suzanne McCormack

INSTITUTION:
Community College of Rhode Island

PRODUCT IN USE:
LaunchPad for the *American Promise* franchise

Course Details

Course:
United States History II: 1877 to the Present

Format:
Since I teach at a community college, my course has been offered in all formats: face to face, hybrid, and online.

How many weeks long is the course?
Fifteen-week fall and spring semesters, the six-week summer sessions, and the intensive January session.

What are the student demographics?
My course sections vary from 20 students (January intensive) to 32 students (fall/spring/summer), and the vast majority of students are taking the course as a general education requirement.

Implementation

LaunchPad plays a significant role in my course as it is linked to my college's learning management system through inclusive access.

From the first day of class my students have access to the e-book as well as all of the resources of LaunchPad. My students regularly use the e-book, primary source documents, summative chapter quizzes, and Learning Curve. In addition, materials that I share in face-to-face classes (slides, films, etc) are posted on LaunchPad. For hybrid and online classes, I post my course presentations to LaunchPad.

Why did you decide to use LaunchPad?

I decided to use the system because it is a great way to help keep me and my students organized during the semester! It is not possible to pass my course without using the LaunchPad resources.

Results

What are you seeing / hearing from students about LaunchPad? Survey results or overall course grades?
While I have not directly surveyed my students, their overall response to using LaunchPad has been extremely positive. Students like that there is clear, easy access to the e-book and other course readings. They can keep an up-to-date eye on their course grades through the gradebook, and they are able to find course assignments presented in the same online location that course readings are posted.

I also link our college library's resources to LaunchPad as well as the Writing Center and College Success Center. Students like that they can find all of this material quickly and easily while working on their history homework with the e-book. I assign the summative quizzes or LearningCurve before every face-to-face meeting and weekly before online discussion board assignments.

These tools have undoubtedly helped my students to be better prepared for class time.

Lessons Learned

What's better now that you are using LaunchPad?
I have had several years of very positive experiences using LaunchPad and intend to continue to utilize this learning management system in future semesters. Without a doubt, my courses are more organized and my students have fewer questions about where/how to find course materials.

How do you think this will impact higher education going forward?
I think as more schools adopt an inclusive access program the students will benefit from having immediate, first-day-of-class access to course materials. For my students, most of whom work at least part time or have family members relying on them for care, easy access has been critical and a fundamental improvement over previous experiences.