

INSTRUCTOR:

Denise Cady Arbeau

INSTITUTION:

North Shore Community College

PRODUCT IN USE:

Achieve for *The Hub*

Course Details

Course:

Composition (college-level, 20 students) and Seminar (co-requisite, 8 students)

Format:

Now taught entirely remotely

How many weeks long is the course?

13 weeks

The Course

I use Achieve with The Hub in my ALP-style writing course. We call the college-level course Composition and the co-requisite course is Seminar.

I teach it entirely remotely now. It is a 13-week course with an enrollment of 20 students in Composition, 8 students in Seminar. My students are first-year students with different majors.

Implementation

I use the prebuilt course in Achieve because I like the writing projects: 6, 1 and 5.
I integrate Achieve with my school's LMS (Blackboard) so students have a single sign-on experience. I assign as many low-stakes writing projects as I can because I like that students can enter their responses in Achieve.

I want my students to spend most of their time in Achieve. Occasionally, in the Seminar course, I create assignment drop boxes in Blackboard for students to complete grammar.

The gradebook in Achieve is terrific for the Writing Projects (I love the way the Writing Projects keep track of all drafts and allow easy feedback) and low-stakes assignments.

The gradebook is a way for students to track the work they have completed, and what they may be missing.

Lessons Learned

I find that once students interact with Achieve at the beginning of the semester, they quickly learn to navigate through it easily.

Because of the course plan and the gradebook, I find students are more independent and ask me fewer questions about homework.

Achieve takes away the burden of providing content for my students in Blackboard.

I think that even after our current need for remote learning dissipates, students in higher education will demand more online learning and Achieve offers me a way to provide a content-rich course that is easy to navigate.