



SUCCESS STORY WITH ACHIEVE **AMANDA NORBUTUS**

INSTRUCTOR:
Amanda Norbutus

INSTITUTION:
Valencia College

PRODUCT IN USE:
Achieve for
Interactive General Chemistry

Course Details

Course:
General Chemistry II

Format:
Online

How many weeks long is the course?
16 weeks

How often does it meet?
Twice a week for 75 minutes, plus one optional problem-solving session a week for one hour.

What are the student demographics?

Total student enrollment for the course is 200; my section has 100 students. It's a mix of general education students and science majors.

Implementation

After converting from Sapling to Achieve (and from other publisher products), my students commented on the quality of the help available, and how they are enjoying the connection between LearningCurve adaptive quizzing, lecture, and homework.

With the homework, my students expressed having fewer frustrations with entering numbers and units for answers in homework set compared to using other online homework platforms.

I have also used the Interactive Activity sheets and virtual activities/tutorials as bonus material as well as a form of group work in real-time virtual class session. Students easily made their own connections between the concepts and their application to the interactive tutorials for each chapter after working with these tutorials and worksheets.

This past semester, I started to assign students the "Self-Reflection surveys" at set points during the semester.

For the first survey, I also added a question to ask students about their "why" for being in my course. Asking students to not only assess their learning styles and study habits, but also to state their reason for taking the class has helped minimize student frustration and encouraged more students to reach out to me or my TAs when they are struggling with material or are having a personal problem that might interfere with their learning.

Lessons Learned

I believe the survey offers the normalization of diverse study habits, and makes attending office hours or using a tutor seem like a normal study tool instead of feeling like an academic failure for needing the extra help in the first place.

Students are grasping problem-solving strategies more easily and can retain certain information for longer now that they know how to assess their learning styles and also know when to change their study patterns to better serve them in my course.