Beyond the One Shot: Creating a Course for Sustained Adult Learning

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Beyond the One-Shot: Creating a Course for Sustained Adult Learning

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Mastering Research in Today’s Academic Library is a General Studies pass/fail course that provides students with tools and skills to:

- Efficiently evaluate and select appropriate high-quality resources.
- Demystify the organization of academic libraries.
- Conduct academic research thoroughly and proficiently.
- Use information ethically and responsibly.
- Apply to any information-seeking situation.

By enrolling adult students recognize the need to improve research skills to successfully complete assignments in other courses.

Course activities help adult students apply their work/life related skill sets to information seeking.

The course was intentionally scheduled during a non-conflict time to not compete with evening degree program courses.

THE STUDENTS & THE LIBRARY

Degree-seeking evening college enrollment: 1,340 students:
- 771 undergraduates enrolled in evening and part-time programs
- 832 graduate and professional students enrolled in evening and part-time programs

This is approximately 12% of the University’s total student enrollment

Of the 650 library instruction courses at the University last year, less than 3% were provided to evening and part-time students.

PERSUADING THE ADMINISTRATORS

June 2012 - Course Proposal: Development of course proposal procedure

July 2012 - Course Proposal: Revised proposal submitted: Mastering Research in Today’s Academic Library

August 2012 - Preliminary review; Revised proposal submitted: Mastering Research in Today’s Academic Library

September 2012 - Receive by the Advisory Committee: “Do not pass – insufficient” offer such a course?

THE FEEDBACK

What did you like most about this course?

“It helped me become familiar with all of the university’s resources that I probably wouldn’t have discovered on my own.”

What would you tell another student about this course?

“This is a class for a student that just started back to school and needs to know the very basics of research.”

“Take this course it will help you throughout your research.”

What would you like to tell the instructor?

“I enjoyed having her as an instructor and will seek assistance from her throughout my career at the university.”

“She is the best for helping you get through some difficult research topics.”

What did you like least about this course?

“We spent a lot of time on simple computer issues and it made the course very slow.”

“Not long enough.”

THE DISCOVERIES & NEXT STEPS

An unexpected discovery from teaching this class was learning that some returning adult learners’ computer skills were lacking.

• We recommended that the evening program include a basic computer course.
• We offered outside class consultations on computer basics.
• We directed students to community and campus resources to improve computer competency.

Our next steps include:

• Offering an online version of this course.
• Strategizing and collaborating with partners to better market course.

THE BIBLIOGRAPHY


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