

Customer Success Story:

Navarro College



Higher Education | ESL Adult Education



Improving proficiency for adult ESL learners

Challenges

Navarro College needed a language-learning solution for its Adult ESL Program that would supplement classroom ESL instruction and help prepare students to take the GED (General Educational Development) Tests in English. Navarro sought a solution that could assist in the instruction of a diverse learner population with different native-language backgrounds by extending practice outside the classroom and allowing students to study at their own pace. The college struggled to meet targets for Texas state oral test scores as measured by the BEST (Basic English Skills Test) Plus, and it needed a solution that would help strengthen oral proficiency. There were also challenges in finding a solution that would improve writing skills, increasing success on the written portion of the exam.

Implementation

Navarro successfully petitioned the State of Texas to approve the Rosetta Stone® Language Lessons Version 3 for Higher Education (formerly Rosetta Course®) solution as a distance-learning curriculum for adult education. The Rosetta Stone solution was placed into the existing curriculum to supplement instruction and extend learning outside classroom hours. Navarro students had six hours of traditional classroom language study per week. Using the Rosetta Stone online solution, students accessed the program in computer labs on campus since most did not have a computer at home. Administrator Tools (formerly Rosetta Stone Manager™) were used to ensure that students were making progress with the program.

Benefits

Through the Rosetta Stone program, the students significantly improved their oral communication and writing skills in preparation for taking the GED Tests. The following implementation highlights were realized between the 2009–10 and 2010–11 academic years:

- 25% increase in student enrollment in the Adult ESL Program
- 45.6% increase in students completing one level of the Rosetta Stone solution
- 56% increase in total time on task in the Rosetta Stone solution
- 300% increase in Rosetta Stone online licenses



"The area of oral skill development is an area that our students have consistently struggled with over the years. This is one factor that led us to the decision to invest in Rosetta Stone."

Leslie Hayes,
Director Adult Education,
Navarro Adult Education
Program

Supplementing the classroom

Rosetta Stone® Language Lessons Version 3 has been recognized as a state-approved distance-learning curriculum for adult education. Navarro has implemented the Rosetta Stone solution to be used as a supplement to the adult ESL classroom. Students spent, on average, one hour per week using the program to help enhance their language skills in preparation for taking their GED Tests in English. With the success of the Rosetta Stone solution as a learning supplement, plans to implement it into a blended-learning approach are under way.

Addressing technology challenges

Navarro selected a Rosetta Stone online solution to improve the language-learning skills of its students. The college faced a challenge because the majority of its adult students did not have computers and/or Internet access at home. To address this challenge, Navarro opened up its computer labs for learners to use before and after class. Access to the labs was especially important during the afternoon and evening hours due to students' work schedules. In addition, some teachers allowed students to leave the classroom early to complete Rosetta Stone assignments. Navarro also found that many students lacked computer experience. By using the Rosetta Stone program these individuals not only improved language skills but also increased their computer literacy. One learner stated, "I learn to speak, read, and write in English the easy way, and at the same time I learn to use the computer."

Experiencing results

Navarro began implementing the Rosetta Stone solution in June 2010 with 25 online licenses. At the end of the first year, it increased licenses by 300% to 100 seats. The college experienced the following growth between the 2009–10 and 2010–11 academic years:

Increase in Rosetta Stone Time on Task	Increase in 1 Level Completion	Increase in Enrolled Students
56%	46%	25%

In the 2009–10 academic year, the college had 142 ESL students move through its program, and 92 of these students completed one level of study during that time. Students logged 11,626 hours on task with the Rosetta Stone program.

In the next academic year (2010–11), the college had 177 ESL students move through its program, and 134 of these students completed one level of study during that time. Students logged 18,225 hours on task with the program.

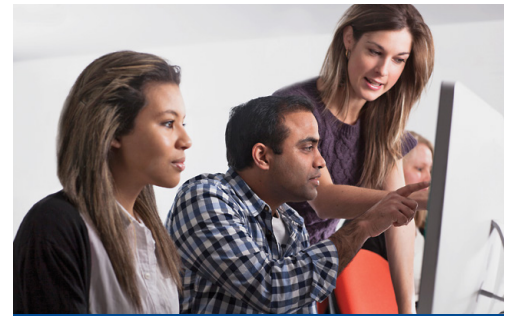
In the three Beginning ESL classes, there was a 14–24 percent increase from the previous academic year in the percentage of students completing a level from the previous academic year. In 2010–11, students easily reached their mandated performance measures in early to mid-May versus the end of June during the previous academic year.

Improving communication

Following implementation of Rosetta Stone Language Lessons Version 3, Navarro's teachers and students realized the value of the solution through improved pronunciation of English, which increased their confidence to speak English with others. Prior to this, teachers found it difficult to get students to talk in the classroom. Once the program was implemented, teachers noticed a significant increase in communication in the classroom. In addition, teachers recognized students were communicating more outside the classroom. For example, teachers cited that students would call them outside of class and communicate with them in English regarding issues that had arisen.

Assessing performance

To assess ESL students' performance, Navarro used the BEST (Basic English Skills Test) Plus, which was developed by the Center for Applied Linguistics. The test includes a face-to-face oral interview to assess the English-language proficiency of adult English-language learners. Oral skill development is an area that Navarro students have consistently struggled with over the years. With the implementation of the Rosetta Stone solution, there has been a significant increase in performance on the oral-interview assessment scores of Navarro ESL learners.



About Navarro College

Navarro College was founded in 1946 and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The college strives to encompass the comprehensive, community-based educational concept, adding occupational education programs and implementing new education concepts including individualized and self-paced instruction and the use of audio-tutorial instructional media.

 www.navarrocollege.edu

About Rosetta Stone

Rosetta Stone is a global leader in technology-driven language and learning solutions for individuals, classrooms, and entire organizations.

Our scalable, interactive solutions have been used by over 12,000 businesses, 9,000 public sector organizations, and 22,000 education institutions worldwide, and by millions of learners in over 150 countries.

 Education