

Customer Success Story:

Humboldt State University



Higher Education

Co-requisite Online
Language Lab



Education

Integrating Technology into the L2 Curriculum

Challenges

Humboldt State University (HSU), nestled amongst the redwoods in Arcata, California, is the northernmost campus of the 23-campus California State University system. The HSU Department of World Languages and Cultures offers Chinese, French, German, and Spanish language classes to 250-300 students per semester. Traditionally, for beginning language classes, levels I – IV, instructors taught four, 50-minute, face-to-face class sessions per week, with students required to spend an additional weekly class period (50-minutes) in a “physical” language lab with onsite materials. More recently, HSU transitioned away from the conventional language lab to an online student-centered solution, which allows the faculty to leverage new technology that works for all languages taught and also better serves a new generation of language learners.

Implementation

Students now access one of two cloud-based offerings from the Rosetta Stone® Language Learning Suite for Higher Education: Rosetta Stone Foundations or Rosetta Stone Advantage. Rosetta Stone Foundations serves as the co-requisite language lab for all level I language courses and Rosetta Stone Advantage serves as the co-requisite language lab for all level II – IV language courses. These solutions provide:

- Foundational and advanced language learning
- Speech-recognition technology that helps guide student pronunciation
- Relevant content that language faculty pre-select for students
- 24/7 web-based access that enables students to learn anytime, anywhere
- Integration with the department’s Course Learning Outcomes and Learning Management System (LMS) – Moodle

Benefits

The Rosetta Stone solutions help HSU realize the following benefits:

- Successful integration of online learning complementing classroom instruction
- Ability to offer an additional 22+ hours of student-centered L2 immersion
- Increased student flexibility to choose their language-skills activities according to their learning styles
- Measurable online learning that increases student motivation and accountability

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

“[The adaptive placement test taken at the beginning of the semester and retaken at the end] lets students know where they started and how far they have come in the language acquisition process.”

Russell “Carlos” Gaskell,
World Languages and
Culture Lab Director

Communication promotes and leads to success

HSU has migrated to an online letter-graded learning solution, replacing the traditional language lab and credit/no credit grading system. Student language lab success at Humboldt State is based on clearly defined expectations and frequent Lab Director-student communication. Starting with the course syllabus, students are guided to the end of the semester target of 20+ hours of student-centered learning through a series of eight "required-time and completed activities" goals. In addition, the Lab Director also provides an online orientation video series, access to real-time grade information via Moodle, and periodic coaching and reminder e-mails to facilitate a successful student online experience.

With both Rosetta Stone® solutions, students are encouraged to exercise learning autonomy and to move outside their comfort zones, which further highlights the programs' ability to support individualized approaches to language learning within the prescribed curriculum of available programs' content.

With Rosetta Stone Advantage, students also have access to an adaptive language placement test. According to Russell "Carlos" Gaskell, World Languages and Culture Lab Director, the adaptive test taken for placement at the beginning of the semester is retaken at the end, providing a useful self-assessment "... which lets students know where they started and how far they have come in the language acquisition process."

Coaching keeps students on track

Students' bimonthly time and completed activities goals are paced to prioritize learning in small increments. Regular e-mail reminders encourage students to maintain the timing as defined in the course syllabus. The importance of the crucial nature of these reminders to student success became self-evident in a recent incident, in which the reminder was not sent, and as a result, a 20% drop in the number of students completing the prescribed goal was observed.

Incentives support accountability

With the implementation of a cloud-based language lab, letter grades were introduced to recognize and reflect a broader range of student effort and accomplishment.

"The lab made it so I could really work on my pronunciation and I valued that aspect."

Nikki Hummel,
HSU Language Student



Humboldt State, located in Arcata, CA, was founded in 1913 and is part of the 23-campus California State University system. Over the last century, HSU has grown from an institution focused solely on teacher education to a fully accredited university with extensive research facilities. The over 8,200 students on the Arcata, CA campus enjoy an extraordinary college experience with a wide array of academic choices, including 48 majors, 69 minors, and 11 graduate programs in three Colleges. Throughout the curriculum, students find a long-standing commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

www.humboldt.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.

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