Interactive language learning complements curriculum.

Challenge

Liberty University is the nation's largest private, nonprofit university. Located in Lynchburg, VA, Liberty sought a robust online language solution to complement the development of conversational language courses in 2011 for Liberty University Online. Criteria for adding additional interactive support included speech recognition to provide students instant pronunciation feedback in the absence of face-to-face instruction and an immersion environment to engage and motivate students. Liberty hoped to develop dynamic online language courses by leveraging both technology and existing faculty and curriculum resources.

Implementation

In 2012 Liberty integrated Rosetta Stone® Foundations for Higher Education (formerly TOTALe® PRO) into the Conversational Spanish, German, and English courses. Student requirements included Rosetta Stone Foundations usage, and the implementation:

- Began as a pilot program that required students to take ACTFL OPIc to ensure outcomes met required course standards
- Expanded course development options for Subject Matter Experts
- Offered 3-credit Spanish, German, and English 101, 102, and 103 courses for non-native speakers in each language
- Provided an Online Foreign Language Lab for tutoring and practice

Benefits

Combining the existing language offering with the Rosetta Stone® solution helped Liberty University Online:

- Offer conversational courses for college credit
- Complement instructional curriculum developed by language faculty
- Align course content and classroom objectives with required outcomes
- Achieve course completion rates greater than average online course completion for programs in the U.S.
- In the 2012 pilot, LU tracked Novice-Mid and higher student scores

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"In order to develop Liberty University Online's conversational courses, our conversational language Subject Matter Experts teamed up with our Center for Curriculum Development, and together, they designed the curriculum for each course; in this process, the Subject Matter Experts recorded videos and presentations related to the course content, created quizzes and assessments, chose supplementary resources/texts, and carefully selected Rosetta Stone activities that best complemented the curriculum by providing students with interactive, visual, and fun activities to help them master the course objectives."

Jamica Conner
Department Chair
College of General Studies
Liberty University

Develop Synergy

With the Liberty University Online framework already in place, integrating an online language-learning component with course offerings meant a flexible solution was needed for a successful partnership to develop. The Rosetta Stone® solution provided students required core content and skill development, while offering technology options to faculty that complemented their courses. Liberty was able to design courses that included the Rosetta Stone solution, differentiating language offerings based on the complexity of the language. Consequently, the university was able to increase course offerings with the addition of both synchronous and asynchronous course components. Technology resources also provided students with live conversations with Liberty's Online Foreign Language Lab's tutors and through the required use of Rosetta Stone *Live Tutoring* online sessions; these meaningful opportunities enhanced the learning experience.

Ensure Launch Success

Prior to launching the integrated course offerings, Liberty created a pilot to evaluate and analyze program impact. Taking a prescriptive approach to success, the university relied on their own Subject Matter Experts in each language to develop course curriculum, which embedded features from the Rosetta Stone platform. Students in the pilot program were required to take the ACTFL OPIc as an internationally recognized evaluation tool, with the scores included in an overall final measurement of progress.

After gauging the success of the pilot, Liberty opened the program to the general population. Ongoing assessment included administering ACTFL OPIc to students in 103-level courses in each language. All student progress was evaluated each semester and students were required to take a final exam. Each was eligible to earn a certificate.

Focus on Oral Communication

The Rosetta Stone platform provided Liberty students a proven method to focus on and build oral communication skills, featuring:

- Proprietary speech-recognition technology for immediate feedback to improve pronunciation
- Program Milestones, which provide learners with interactive speaking and listening practice
- Online *Live Tutoring* sessions that enabled students to practice language learned with other learners and an online native-speaking coach
- Smart online activities students could do alone or with other learners as a way to practice and reinforce lessons learned

> *"After we piloted our conversational language courses, our students took the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Interview (OPIc). After just one semester of study, students in the 101 courses scored at the Novice-Mid level or higher on the OPIc."*
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> **Jamaica Conner, Department Chair**
> **College of General Studies**
> **Liberty University**

About Liberty University

Liberty University is the largest private, nonprofit university in the nation, the largest university in Virginia, and the largest Christian university in the world. Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains on more than 7,000 beautiful acres in Lynchburg, VA, Liberty offers over 350 programs from the certificate to the doctoral level, and is home to more than 100,000 residential and online students.

Since 1971, the mission of Liberty University has been to develop Christ-centered men and women with the values, knowledge, and skills essential for impacting tomorrow's world. With a unique heritage and an ever-expanding influence, Liberty remains steadfast in its commitment of Training Champions for Christ.

▶ www.liberty.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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