



From COVID to CoursePoint:

How One Nursing Program
Went All Online—Fast

Case Study: Shoreline Community College

Challenges Faced

Offsetting the Decline in Clinical Sites

Like many US nursing schools, Shoreline Community College had been struggling in recent years to help its nursing students obtain enough clinical hours to fulfill state-mandated training. Shoreline had been further affected by an outdated infrastructure that prevented the school from building its own simulation center. In fact, Shoreline has not been alone in its effort to secure more clinical hours for students. The problem is nationwide in that US nursing schools have been turning away more and more qualified applicants every year because of lack of clinical sites.

As clinical sites closed, nursing programs began competing for the remaining slots, even as they try to reverse the nursing shortage. Shoreline’s approach to the decline in sites was to contract with area hospitals so as to provide students with two hours of simulation per quarter. And even though students appreciated the experience, it was clearly not enough.

Then, with the COVID-19 pandemic escalating, the few remaining clinical sites closed, too. Shoreline was forced to act—and fast. The immediate need? Virtual simulation. But as Shoreline quickly discovered, the institution needed a digital curriculum solution so it could pivot quickly to a virtual learning environment.

Institution

Shoreline Community College
Shoreline, Washington
Founded 1964
35 nursing faculty
215 nursing students

Overview

Shoreline Community College enables students to work toward earning an ADN. There are also advanced placement opportunities for qualified students who have already obtained their LPN to be certified as an RN.

Accreditations

The program is approved by the Washington State Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission and is nationally accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

Nursing Student Demographics

Shoreline Community College has a diverse student population, the majority of which is 31 to 40 years of age. Most students are female (77%), and a majority of students have previous degrees and work experience prior to their forays into nursing. Although Shoreline is an urban school, its students are located throughout the state, including in rural areas.

80K

qualified applicants in 2019 were turned away by U.S. nursing schools

40%

fewer clinical training sites between the 2019-20 academic years

73%

of nursing programs went mostly virtual during COVID, compared to 11% pre-pandemic

“Even before COVID, we were losing clinical sites for our students and competing with all the other nearby nursing programs for space. When COVID hit, we had to do something—fast. Within three weeks, we had rolled out Lippincott CoursePoint+ and vSim. The integration goes far beyond just a textbook. Those multiple ways of learning really make the material stick for our students.”

—Prof. Mary Burroughs, MSN, RN, CNE
Dean of Health Occupations & Nursing, Shoreline Community College

Solution Snapshot

Shoreline Community College began assessing Wolters Kluwer's virtual simulation solutions for its nursing curriculum in winter 2020 so that it could become better prepared for a reduction in clinical sites. The review process overlapped with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which accelerated a decision and quickly expanded the selection process beyond just the one solution—vSim® for Nursing. The college decided to implement Wolters Kluwer's entire digital curriculum solution, Lippincott® CoursePoint+, which included vSim for Nursing and PrepU for adaptive quizzing.

The Solution

Shoreline Implements Simulation Based on Best Practices

As numbers of COVID cases and lockdowns escalated, Shoreline implemented a nursing simulation platform into the curriculum in a matter of just weeks. The implementation enabled Shoreline to fully leverage Lippincott CoursePoint+ and vSim while at the same time taking advantage of the platform's advanced learning tools, case studies, animations, and more, creating continuity that helped the material stick with students and proving more cost-effective for the institution.

Shoreline students used vSim by interacting with virtual patients in a safe, realistic, online environment from the safety of their homes. Students and faculty could use a single, intuitive online interface across the entire solution with data and analytics to measure course material proficiency. It was also important that they became exposed to the curriculum in multiple ways that use different learning styles to build skills and test mastery.

By helping accelerate the implementation, the Wolters Kluwer team helped streamline onboarding, and a student expert was identified in each class to help peers troubleshoot. Shoreline faculty could access Wolters Kluwer nurse educators, too.

As faculty became more comfortable with the solution, they began to more fully engage the learning tools, and they gained access to deeper analytics and reporting tools that made curriculum-wide learning more efficient and effective by meeting students where the students are in the learning curve. Even as the pandemic disrupted routines and clinical sites remained closed, students have been able to stay on top of their work, learning from anywhere.



At-risk students have received additional support; every student who accessed Wolters Kluwer resources passed their courses.



Students have benefited from adaptive quizzing, which helps support mastery of the material taught while ensuring proficiency.



Instructors have benefited from an integrated solution platform that revolutionizes how they teach and helps them adapt their approach to meet students' evolving needs.

Results

Revolutionizing instruction. Within weeks of using the Wolters Kluwer solutions, Shoreline faculty and students were saying they felt satisfied with the tools and the virtual transition of the curriculum and were thrilled with the simulations and integrated lessons. By the end of the spring 2020 quarter, faculty were saying the new tools were “revolutionizing” how they taught.

Providing extra support for at-risk students. Managing at-risk students is a top priority at academic institutions. vSim and CoursePoint+ digital course solutions have provided extra support for faculty to help at-risk students. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the high-risk population grew because students faced new stressors and challenges involving balancing school with work and caring for family. But with the help of Lippincott CoursePoint+, Shoreline faculty could offer additional support, and every student who accessed the resources passed all courses.

Achieving Mastery. Faculty also used the built-in adaptive-learning functionality through PrepU. For one particular course, rather than holding a single large exam at the end of three-quarters of content as had been done previously, PrepU adaptive-learning quizzing enabled faculty to test students on the material throughout the term. Faculty were pleased to find that this method was more effective at ensuring true mastery of the material based on demonstrated proficiency that helps ensure that students remain engaged and that enables faculty to help those most at risk of falling behind.

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