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BLISS Branched Learning for Innovating Student Success



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Project Overview

- Online courses have a number of assessment methods however, improving the pedagogy of the online environment is an ongoing process which changes over time. Learning is best achieved when multiple teaching methods, visual, auditory, didactic and experiential, are included in the delivery of course content.
- This project is developing and implementing branched scenario learning lessons on nutrition focused topics of Diabetes, Nutrition and Dental Health, and Weight Management, to improve student outcomes. The lessons are being delivered to two fully online HUN1201 Human Nutrition Courses taught be the same instructor.

Problem / Question

Traditional online courses limit learners to linear learning methods. Students in allied health pathways need to learn critical thinking skills and cultural sensitivity which is best learned through self directed learning modalities.

Procedure



Using Adobe Captivate 2017, branched learning lessons were developed which incorporate short videos, podcasts diagrams and images.

> IRB approval submitted

Step 2



the Branched Scenario lessons

Expert speakers, and Registered Nurse, Dental Assistant, Registered Dietitian and of different disciplines for each of the three lessons were contracted to create videos and podcasts that will methods. be used in the development of



This new content is being incorporated into two online HUN1201 Human Nutrition sections will be measuredone using the Branched Learning lessons and one using traditional linear



Step 4 in progress

An assessment will be conducted in both sections to determine if Branched Scenarios lessons show a greater improvement in learning outcomes than traditional linear lessons.

Hypothesis

This project will improve fully-online allied healthcare students' ability to make culturally sensitive and clinically appropriate decisions when challenged with a hypothetical nutrition related problem.



Variables / Research

Controlled variables

 HUN1201 Human **Nutrition student** in a traditional online course with linear learning modalities.

Independent variable

• HUN1201 Human **Nutrition** online course using Branched Scenarios as a learning modality for three lessons.

Dependent variable

 Student assessment scores will exhibit better understanding of the lesson content.

Materials

- Obtain Adobe Captivate 2017 software
- Identify and secure participation from health professionals in the area of Diabetes, Dental Health and Weight Management.
- Video and podcast recording tools and support.
- LMS
- Online access to tool for informed consent delivery



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Conclusion

- The process of developing learning lessons to be delivered in the branched scenario format has been an exciting process which has fostered opportunities to develop interprofessional contribution to nutrition focused learning lessons.
- In addition to this research outcomes, this innovative, interactive learning modality which encompasses cultural and critical thinking challenges may further enrich the ability of allied health students to provide a higher quality of health care in our diverse community.

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