

Design Problem Description

Enrollment statistics indicate that 37 percent of the students at ABC School are enrolled in online courses, with enrollment increases of 5 percent per year. Student feedback has indicated that students do not feel engaged in the courses and are completing assignments just to get a grade. The context of the course materials does not lend itself to a true understanding of the concepts presented in the courses, and students are complaining that they are not really learning anything.

This problem of a lack of student engagement can be corrected with the design and development of meaningful assignments that challenge students to think critically by applying course concepts to practical problem-solving. There are several goals that need to be met to accomplish this task, including: 1) training online teachers to provide the same level of student-teacher interaction in an online class as in an onsite class, 2) the development of relevant assignments, 2) the requirement of critical thinking as students work through the assignments, and 3) the application of course concepts to solve real-world problems. Meeting these goals will help to begin the process of increasing student engagement and improving student feedback.

It is important to keep in mind that students come into a course with various levels of comprehension and understanding. Teachers must take this into account when presenting assignments and working with students who have questions. An intervention will help ABC school to maintain current enrollment numbers and continue to increase that enrollment in the coming years.