

Desire2Learn Client Success Story

THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH: OFFICE OF OPEN LEARNING

The Office of Open Learning delivers on the University of Guelph's commitment to outreach by offering more than just the traditional campus-based undergraduate and graduate courses; they offer learning alternatives and flexibility for their 15,000 students allowing them to reach their educational goals. The University of Guelph, located in Guelph Ontario, is renowned in Canada and throughout North America as a research-intensive and learner-centered institution. The University is also known for its commitment to open learning, a collaborative approach, and an international orientation.

The Challenge

Six years ago, the University of Guelph's Office of Open Learning (OOL) was using a combination of learning management tools to provide specific functions and features to carry out their eLearning mandate. This complexity, due to the multiple systems, created many challenges such as capacity issues, an inability to back up their course content, and a lack of functionality and scalability as they were limited to offering 45 online courses concurrently. At this time, there was no Learning Management System available that provided all the specific features that the OOL required.



Desire2Learn Impact

- Course enrolment increased by 163%
- Offers over 498 face-to-face, hybrid, continuing, and full distance education courses
- Since summer of 2002, provided over 50 online continuing education programs to more than 2,000 enrolments

In Search of Answers

The University of Guelph's Office of Open Learning began a thorough search for a solution that would meet their specific technological requirements as well as their 'ease-of-use' criteria. The OOL required a solution that would be flexible, scalable, and allow them to personalize their courses to reflect the instructor's individual style and approach to teaching. Other essential requirements were ease of integration, a responsive help desk, and additional support services to facilitate the University's growth. Most importantly, the OOL sought a strong partnership with their new learning management provider, in addition to a collaborative approach to craft their unique online learning program.

The Solution

John Baker, Desire2Learn President and CEO, and the University of Guelph's OOL worked closely together to fully understand each other's objectives and build an appropriate solution. This collaborative partnership initiated the development and implementation of a learning platform that provided the OOL with an easy-to-use enterprise solution.

The Results

After implementing Desire2Learn Learning Environment, the Office of Open Learning was able to increase the number of courses offered in their online environment, diversify the types of programs offered to their students, and customize the platform's tools to fit their specific needs. Since the adoption of Learning Environment in 2000, the OOL has developed and delivered over 55 distance education graduate course offerings to over 1,000 student enrolments. The OOL quickly went from offering 96 online undergraduate courses in the 2000/01 to offering 223 fully online courses in 2005/06. Undergraduate course enrolments have increased by 163% since 2000/01. Efficiencies gained throughout the organization with the application of this strategic platform has allowed for this significant growth with minimal increases in personnel.

"We have a great record of partnership and innovation, as our DE program has grown alongside Desire2Learn. Desire2Learn eLearning Suite has promoted effective pedagogical results in online learning, as well as a rich experience in the use and management of the administrative tools."

John Cassidy | Director, Office of Open Learning

In addition, the OOL's collaborative relationship with the University of Guelph Humber has resulted in the development of over 170 University of Guelph Humber courses that make use of Learning Environment in face-to-face, hybrid, and full distance education courses serving over 19,000 student enrolments since Fall 2002.

Learning Environment allows the instructors and administrators to create and brand their users' interface. The flexibility of the platform allows the instructors and distance learning specialists to quickly develop courses, adapt to rapid change, create new tools, and respond quickly to modification requests. Desire2Learn offers a wide range of support services, which ensures that all inquires and concerns are dealt with in a timely manner. The OOL's strong partnership with Desire2Learn contributes to an increased number of enrolments which has lead to the growth of their online program. As the Office of Open Learning continues to move forward with expanding their online courses, Desire2Learn will continue to work with them to develop solutions that enable them to achieve their mandate of providing students with the opportunity to reach their educational goals.

To learn more about our clients visit us at: www.Desire2Learn.com

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About Us

Desire2Learn includes Desire2Learn Incorporated and its subsidiaries.

Desire2Learn is a global provider of enterprise eLearning solutions enabling leading institutions and organizations to create teaching and learning environments that support them in realizing their vision.

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