

## Desire2Learn Client Success Story

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA NURSING SCHOOL

The Nursing Program is a unique component of the University of Arizona (UA). Located in Tucson, Arizona, UA is a premier, student-centered research institution. With strong research and academic programs, UA has become one of the nation's top 20 public research institutions.

### **The Challenge**

To respond to the critical shortage of nursing faculty, the University required a powerful, but flexible system to enable them to convert the existing face-to-face Nursing PhD degree program to an entirely online delivery.

### **In Search of Answers**

In 2002, the school embarked on its search for a solution that was easy-to-use for both the faculty and students. Given the highly specialized subject matter, the search committee was also looking for a flexible and customizable solution, one whose interface could be tailored to a desired look-and-feel and one which had the ability to support multiple instructional styles. Moreover, the committee was searching for a vendor that would be responsive to their needs and would seek input and welcome a voice on future product development.



Arizona's First University.

### **Desire2Learn Impact**

- 56 Online Nursing PhD courses offered; 76 active learners
- Award-winning program: the WCET Outstanding Work Award for 2005
- 19,000 University of Arizona students use the Desire2Learn solution in hybrid courses
- 30% increase in the number of courses over previous year: 900 Desire2Learn courses campus-wide



## The Solution

After reviewing several competitive products, the committee selected Desire2Learn Learning Environment, a comprehensive web-based framework of teaching and learning tools and functionality enabling learner achievement and the ability to measure organization effectiveness. Desire2Learn Learning Environment best met all of the committee's requirements including the ability for faculty to deliver instructional content and provide research mentoring.

Learning Environment enabled the instructional technologies staff to create a collaborative learning environment through the use of the discussion tool and group capabilities. These collaborative tools facilitated a sense of community by enabling the students to engage in class and group discussions — where the real learning takes place. Furthermore, Learning Environment offered unparalleled flexibility to support multiple instructional styles.

## The Results

WCET, the cooperative advancing the effective use of technology in higher education, recognized the innovative and effective uses of technologies in educating and serving students in the University of Arizona's online nursing PhD Program. The nation's first totally online nursing PhD program in a research intensive university enables nurses to remain in their current positions, frequently in rural areas, while enrolling in a full-time internationally recognized doctoral program. Using Learning Environment combined with video conferencing, faculty deliver instructional content and provide research mentoring.

*“The system provided an extreme range of flexibility of how to put things together both in terms of the overall look-and-feel and how the student can interact with each course element.”*

Bruce A. Cameron | eLearning Development Manager,  
Learning Technologies Center, University of Arizona

Among the innovations to create a virtual research community are a Web Portal which serves as the central point of access and provides students the sense of a community and a media-rich conference room that enables research teams to work collaboratively with students and faculty at-a-distance. This central point of access directs students to resources such as the Student Center which provides learning resources, a virtual student lounge, exemplary student showcases, the doctoral nursing association, and individual student and faculty homepages. As the program begins its fourth year, the School of Nursing offers 56 courses to a total of 76 PhD students who come from across the United States and as far away as Thailand. The university has really appreciated the openness and collaborative approach of Desire2Learn.

As Bruce Cameron explains: *“the company really listens to us and is very responsive.”* Desire2Learn provides the opportunity for clients to have a voice by encouraging them to actively contribute to product steering committees and influence the future direction of the products and services the company offers.

Today, a total of 19,000 University of Arizona students are using Learning Environment in on-campus hybrid courses. Currently the university is offering 900 courses which represents an increase of 30% over the previous year. In the spring of 2004, the university conducted an extensive evaluation of the online system through an anonymous online survey via Learning Environment. Much of the students' feedback can be summarized by the following statement: *“I continue to tell people just how great this software is. I've used [another system]... Desire2Learn is seamless, the technical support is very prompt and helpful.”*

*“The Desire2Learn system is extremely intuitive and easy-to-use: it provides an accelerated learning curve. In addition, we appreciate the openness and collaborative approach in influencing the future product direction.”*

Bruce A. Cameron | eLearning Development Manager,  
Learning Technologies Center, University of Arizona

To learn more about our clients visit us at: [www.Desire2Learn.com](http://www.Desire2Learn.com)

# CONTACT US

## 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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