

Enhancing Student Achievement through Curriculum Digitization for High-Need Pathway Courses

PI:	Katie O’Shea	Funding:	\$939,446
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Project Reporting:	Annually for 6 years	Reporting End Date:	June 30, 2022

To provide students more relevant pathway choices, Columbus State proposes to digitize the course curriculum for 10 college courses, which are part of multiple high-needs pathways. The project will focus specifically on the Health Information Management Technology coursework, and the Medical Laboratory Technology coursework, with additional general education courses which are college requirements in multiple health and technology certificates and degrees. The **overall goal** of the Columbus State Straight A project is to increase student achievement and reduce textbook costs for high school students enrolled in College Credit Plus courses, while expanding student opportunity and access to college and career pathway offerings for high-demand jobs in the region.

To meet the need of digitized curriculum which engages students and enhances learning, Columbus State and Apple Education have been exploring the Apple learning environment for the past two years. The iPad device and the access it provides to Apple’s educational content platform is very appealing and compelling in the ability to support engaging digital content. There are a growing number of interactive digital textbooks in Apple's iBook store which provide accessible, higher education textbooks, often for \$10.00 or less. Apple iPad’s provide access to new forms of teaching and learning materials in a single portable device for students to use anytime and anywhere. College and high school faculty are increasingly interested in finding better, innovative ways to involve students more deeply in content through the use of technology. We propose that we can use the Apple learning environment to engage students, provide greater access to College Credit Plus courses to students across Ohio while significantly reducing textbook costs through the use of iBooks, iPad apps and other features of the Apple learning environment. This approach will result in sustainable cost savings to districts and students well beyond the life of the grant.

The project proposes to partner with South-Western City School District and Westerville City School District to pilot course content during the grant. The resulting feedback will drive course refinement prior to a wide release of the courses. Upon completion of the course digitization, the courses will then be made available to students state-wide through Columbus State’s College Credit Plus offerings.

Objectives

1. To increase student success (grades A, B, or C) in College Credit Plus courses by 10% above benchmark through highly engaging digital course content.
2. To decrease average textbook costs in digitized College Credit Plus courses by 75% below benchmark.
3. To increase student access to entry-level college courses which are required courses in a number of college and career pathways.
4. To increase student enrollments in College Credit Plus courses due to availability of expanded pathway course access.

Partners

- South-Western City School District
- Westerville City School District
- Apple Education
- Consultant for instructional designers
- Consultant for faculty training
- Consultant for project management
- Contractor for LEA IT training/support
- The Rucks Group (external evaluator)