Student Retention Strategies Using D2L

Below are a number of things you can use D2L for to help your students. Documentation for each of these strategies can be found on the Teaching Commons website (http://teachingcommons.depaul.edu/Technology/D2L/index.html). For more ideas or help implementing any of these strategies in your class, contact FITS@depaul.edu or sign up for a D2L Workshop or Open Lab at: http://fits.depaul.edu/workshops/Pages/default.aspx

Attendance Tool

The Attendance tool allows you to track your students’ attendance in class sessions. The attendance register will tell you a student’s attendance percentage. Note that there is no integration with the Desire2Learn Grades tool and no way to create Intelligent Agents based on this data.

Discussions

Discussions can be used to encourage peer interaction and conversations in your course. Those instructors who see their students in the classroom may find a Q&A forum where students can ask questions about the course material and assignments helpful for managing common questions.

Dropbox

The Dropbox tool allows you to set up assignments that students can turn in online. You can set up separate Dropbox folders for each assignment and set up start dates and deadlines. Once assignments are submitted, you can view them online, download them, check submission times, enter a score, add qualitative feedback, and return submissions with comments, all from within the Dropbox tool. You can also check for plagiarism through the Dropbox using TurnItIn.

Emailing Your Class

Use the email function of D2L to provide your students with updates and reminders. Using the email does not require that you activate your class.

Intelligent Agents

Intelligent Agents send an automated email when instructor-defined criteria are met. For example, instructors can email students who have not logged in recently, whose grades have fallen below a certain level, or who have viewed (or not viewed) a specific content topic.

Notifications

Desire2Learn can notify you or your students with updates in your course via either email or text message. Students can opt in to be notified of upcoming Dropbox deadlines, new Discussion posts, and new News items.
Posting a News Announcement

Use **News Announcements** to post reminders about upcoming assignments. Students can subscribe to these announcements so they get them as email messages. News Announcements are not automatically emailed to students.

Posting Your Syllabus and Other Course Documents

Posting your syllabus (and other course documents) in D2L provides students an easy place to find the documents related to your course. Having these files easily available to students electronically eliminates excuses and makes them accessible even if a student has to miss class.

View Progress

The **View Progress** tool allows you to view how students have interacted with different course components, such as which Content topics a student has viewed, number of discussion posts written and read, and checklist items completed. Note that this tool shows individual student progress not an overall class report.

Quizzes

Create low stakes **Quizzes** for students to check their understanding of course concepts. Quizzes can be used for a grade or can simply be a tool for student practice. Quiz options like multiple attempts, feedback, and random question blocks allow the student the ability to practice before high stakes tests.