

NEW CHARTER UNIVERSITY

A RESEARCH STUDY EXPLORING THE NEW CHARTER UNIVERSITY DELIVERY MODEL IN ONLINE AND BLENDED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

“Our underlying belief is that a college degree should be affordable and accessible to all who seek it. We should do all that we can to innovate and make college more widely accessible and personalized to meet the needs of today’s students.”

EMILY CHIU, NEW CHARTER UNIVERSITY

AT A GLANCE:

Targeted Degree Program:

Foundational Courses and 2+2 (Associate to Bachelor’s Degree in Business)

Organizations: For-profit, four-year institution and public community college

Opening Date: Spring 2013

First Year Enrollment: 100

Tuition Model: Flat monthly rate

Geographies Served: California

Targeted Students: Low-income, minority students and working adults

HALLMARKS:

Self-paced, outcomes-based model

Individualized instruction and academic support personalized to each student’s needs

Adaptive feedback provided by online dashboard that shows real-time performance metrics to both students and faculty

Multiple modalities for course content (lecture, multimedia, textbook, simulation)

1:1 mentor faculty for student support

Peer-to-peer learning and support

Year-round enrollment

Monthly flat-rate tuition with unlimited access to course credits

All-inclusive tuition model includes books and resources

Credit for prior learning provided through testing

The belief driving New Charter University is simple: people shouldn’t have to take on debt to afford college.

With that mantra, the online university is hoping to deliver relevant, outcomes-driven learning and college degrees that any learner can afford out of pocket.

To do so, they offer all classes online, eliminating the need for brick-and-mortar classrooms, and hire faculty who focus exclusively on supporting and teaching students based on their individual learning needs. Degrees are centered on outcomes, not credit hours, so students move on as soon as they demonstrate mastery. Tuition is based on a monthly subscription model that includes textbooks.

Although the goal is to increase access, quality and support are also important considerations. Students access all course modules through an online learning environment that includes interactive dashboards driven by performance data. At any moment they—and their faculty advisors—can get a quick snapshot of their standing in a particular

course and any areas of concern. The interface includes specific, actionable advice that can be delivered to advisors or students.

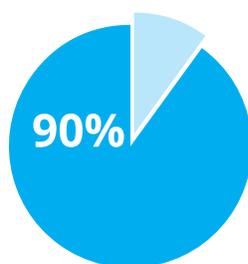
The interface also encourages peer-to-peer collaboration and learning through discussion forums and social media tools. The goal is to help students move quickly and through a path personalized to their individual needs, without sacrificing engagement or peer interaction.

Uniquely, the university’s courses and content are freely available on the Internet to any learner, whether or not they are enrolled.

By eliminating the pay wall, New Charter allows prospective students to experience the system while encouraging current students to invite in their peers as mentors, guides, or potential classmates.

With funding from Next Generation Learning Challenges, New Charter will partner with a traditional community college (Santa Rosa Junior College) to study the effectiveness of the New Charter model in both a fully online and a blended learning environment. The partnership will also let New Charter investigate the model’s

PELL-ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:



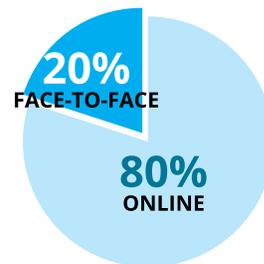
TARGET PRICE TO STUDENTS PER MONTH:

\$199

COST PER FTE:

\$3,500–
\$5,000

DELIVERY:



STUDENT SUPPORT MODEL

COACH & ADVISOR:



Assigned to individual students. Guides each student throughout duration of enrollment.

COURSE SPECIALISTS:



Subject matter expert. Available to students in specific courses. Also, publishes and curates course content.

EVALUATORS:



Part-time faculty that assess proctored exams and to whom students are anonymous.

impact on a traditional community college's large adult learner population.

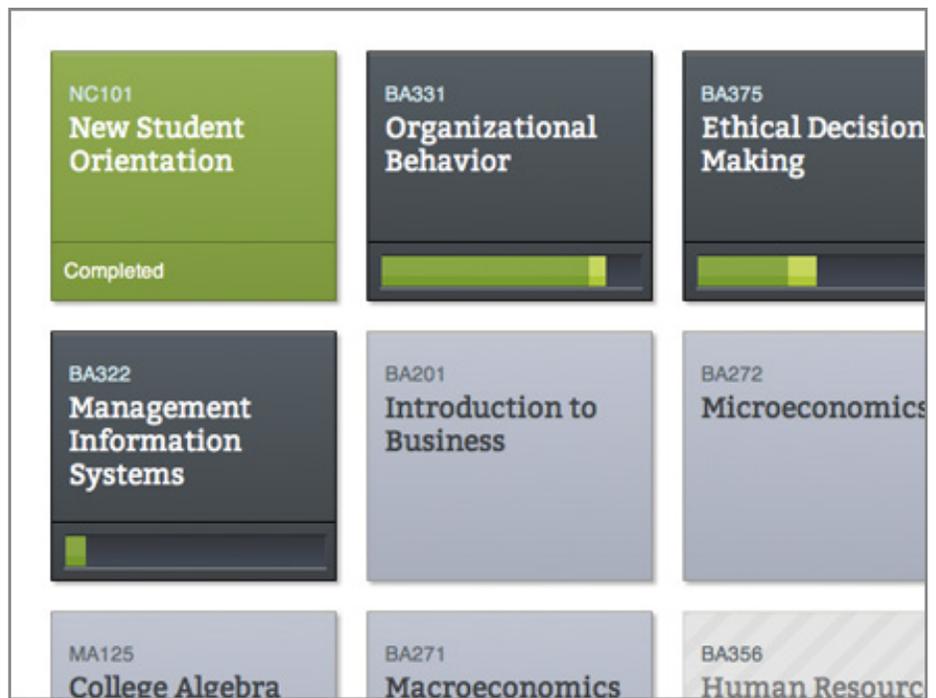
The partnership is, in part, focused on providing free developmental courses (in math, reading, writing, and online learning) to support student readiness for college level work. Also, students who complete an Associate's degree from Santa Rosa Junior College will be provided scholarships to attend schools operated by University Now, providing a pathway for Santa Rosa students to complete the last two years of their Bachelor's degree program online.

The research study will compare how resources, strategies, and interventions are used by both the online and blended students and the extent to which they promote student success.

Research Study Outcomes:

- Demonstrate innovative educational technologies that can lead to effective student and faculty engagement
- Demonstrate an educational model that can improve student success among underrepresented populations
- Determine whether a self-paced, competency-based model can improve outcomes for nontraditional learners

PLATFORM SNAPSHOT



New Charter features an online adaptive learning platform with a "readiness meter" that shows students a quick snapshot of where they stand in each course.

- Assess the effectiveness of online and place-based coaching models and their impact on student success in college
- Understand which resources and interventions most

effectively move nontraditional learners from a blended learning experience to an online-only model

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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