

Project Year

2001

Project Team

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Project Title

Spanish for Business, Law, and Medicine

Audience

Approximately 40 students enrolled in business, legal, or medical Spanish each year.

Pedagogical Issue

Language students require significant amounts of practice with reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The practice of language skills can be enhanced through personalized instruction and more time with experts, but sufficient time for personalized work is not available through institutional staff.

Furthermore, access to materials in a real-world context is an important asset to any language course, but this is not always possible in the classroom.

Solution

This project team proposes to develop a comprehensive course website for the Business, Legal, and Medical Spanish courses, in order to take advantage of the benefits that online learning can offer to language students. The site will include the following elements: a template for course storyboards; the components of each instructional unit; synchronous and asynchronous communication systems; self-correcting, self-grading exercises; and activities that encourage students to practice the four language skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) using the specific vocabulary and documentation related to business, legal, or medical Spanish. The online techniques will provide students with personalized instruction and solve enrollment wait-list problems. Students will experience a significant increase in contact time with the Spanish language and an increase in the availability of profession-targeted vocabulary. Students will have direct access to real-world material such as Spanish newspapers and magazines, be able to access reference works relevant to business, legal, or medical Spanish, and listen to Spanish language radio broadcasts in real time. Videos and sound files focused on particular topics will be made available via the course web site.

Technologies Used

Courseware (WebCT development), Web Design, Yahoo Instant Messenger / PureVoice