

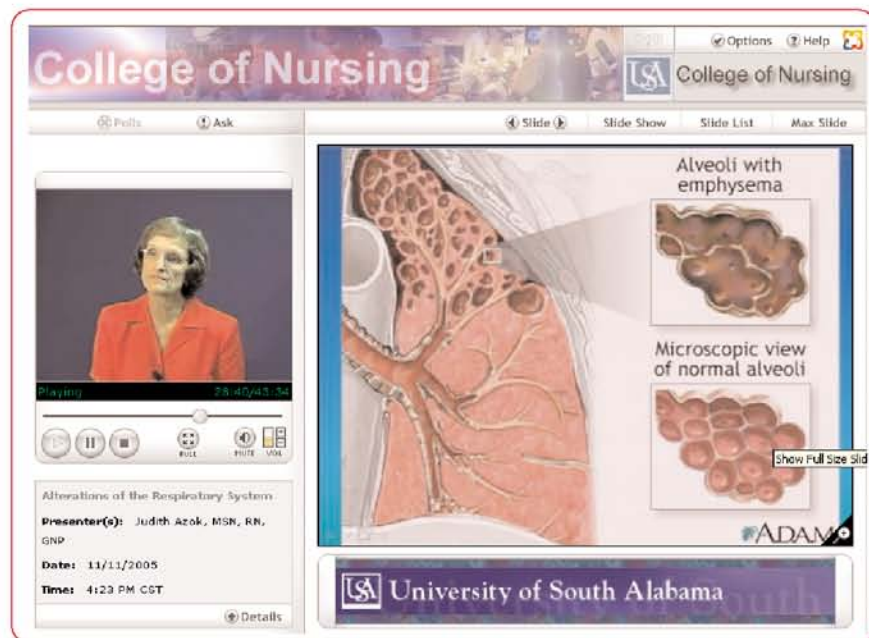
The Challenge

An ongoing interest in using emerging technologies to provide students with easier and more readily available access to educational opportunities has resulted in the College of Nursing at the University of South Alabama implementing a number of innovative programs. In 1999 the College of Nursing applied for and received a grant from the Division of Nursing at the Department of Health and Human Services (HRSA). The College used this grant to put its RN to BSN, (Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing) program online. The College also began to transition the Master of Science in Nursing program to the online environment. All tracks within the MSN program are now completely online. Students complete clinical requirements with preceptors in their home communities.

With these online programs successfully launched, the College began exploring ways to use technology in its traditionally taught on-campus four year prelicensure BSN program. The goal was to provide students in the BSN program with more convenient and better access to course lectures and media. Mediasite, a comprehensive presentation capture, production, and distribution system, proved to be the answer.

The Solution

During the summer of 2005, professors and instructors used Mediasite to record nearly 400 lectures and presentations in a small studio in the College of Nursing's facilities. Mediasite automates recording, managing, and viewing a broad range of digital interactive media. Since Mediasite accommodates an almost endless variety of presenter styles and content, the lectures and presentations instructors recorded are very much like live classroom sessions.



The College also received permission from publishing companies to capture video programs on digital media and allow students to view them on their computers. The lectures, presentations, and video programs are now uploaded to a secure server and are available to students via the Internet.

The Mediasite system can handle literally hundreds of presentations at the same time. This makes it possible for all of the College's students to access different courses without creating system slow-downs or other issues. A unique catalog management feature supports searching for specific presentations,

instructors, and subject matter by title, presenter, or description.

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Unlike live classroom sessions, courses via Mediasite can be reviewed multiple times, “rewound” to allow students to focus on key information, accessed at any point in any lecture or presentation, and viewed at the students’ convenience using any standard Web browser. This built-in navigation function facilitates learning, enabling students to concentrate their efforts on only the information they need. If a student has a question, he or she can ask it via an email to the professor.

The Results

One constant in nursing education is the need to balance important interactive and hands-on experiences with the equally important information provided in classroom lectures. For the College of Nursing at the University of South Alabama, Mediasite has simplified this task. In the past, of every three hours of classroom time, at least an hour was spent with students passively listening to lectures. Now, the lecture portion of students’ classroom time is conducted via Mediasite.

Because they are accessing faculty lectures on the Web, students can spend the bulk of their classroom hours on role playing, case studies, observing and presenting demonstrations, and other interactive activities. Since the online lectures are available any time and accessible from any computer, students can fit them into their schedules easily. And unlike a live presentation, with Mediasite students can go directly to a specific point in a lecture or a specific slide to review it as many times as they need to.

Moving lectures to Mediasite has provided an additional benefit. All nursing courses and in-classroom activities have now been consolidated into one day. This means that instead of having to

pack all clinical rotations into two days, the College now has four days available each week for these critically important activities and can more easily accommodate student schedules and ensure that everyone gets quality clinical experience.

According to Debra Davis, DSN, dean of the University of South Alabama College of Nursing, Mediasite has a lot to offer to students and faculty alike. “Mediasite has improved the quality and consistency of our lectures and presentations as well as access to them. Our students like being able to watch lectures and presentations at their convenience and faculty and students alike enjoy spending classroom time on interactive learning rather than lectures.”

Future Plans

For this college of nursing, the search for better ways to educate using technology is an ongoing pursuit. Dean Davis expects to expand the ways in which the College uses Mediasite over time. In addition to using Mediasite in online courses, she hopes to take advantage of the system’s synchronous applications.

The College currently has two campuses that are 45 minutes apart. Using Mediasite for faculty meetings, a future use planned for the system, will eliminate the need for that drive. Another potential use for the Mediasite will be to provide access to subject area experts at both campuses without the need for the experts to travel between locations to do so.

For more information on Mediasite and how it can benefit your organization, contact Linda Olsen, Mediasite Specialist, at 770.441.5128 or via email at lolsen@tillc.biz.