



DeakinSync: Curate, credential and carry forward digital learning evidence

CASE STUDY: Curate, Credential and Carry Forward Digital Learning Evidence: tiny.cc/cccdle

Context: Course enhancement, a university-wide initiative begun in 2012, sees Graduate Learning Outcomes for employability assessed and evidenced in every course (degree). Since 2014, all Deakin domestic and international students can create, curate and share digital evidence of achievement of employability outcomes through DeakinSync, our adaptive, personalised digital learning environment.

[1] What are we doing?

Prior to this initiative, students and staff were focused on units (subjects), and the marks and grades associated with assessment. There was no clear emphasis on course-level progress, standards, or employability outcomes. Course enhancement has seen a clear cultural shift in student and staff engagement with Deakin's Graduate Learning Outcomes. The vast majority of staff have been engaged in enhancing curriculum and support services so that students are educated for the jobs and skills of the future. DeakinSync, named by students, launched at the start of 2014. By September 2015, 84% of all students have logged in and on average there are 28,675 student logins each day. As well as their units (subjects), students typically access library, timetable, enrolment and support services.

[2] How are we doing it?

Course enhancement aligns Deakin's eight Graduate Learning Outcomes at course and unit level. The emphasis is on evidence for employability through assessment, re-imagined to simulate the tasks required of new graduates. In tandem, the traditional learning management system used by all students has been overlaid with an elegant representation layer (DeakinSync) which gives students personalised, course-level view of **Progress** towards completion, **Portfolio** tools for curation of their learning evidence, and a **Profile** tool where students can assemble and publish professional-quality profiles and connect to employers through professional channels such as LinkedIn. Deakin Hallmarks use digital badging technologies to enable course leaders to recognise students' outstanding achievement of those Graduate Learning Outcomes most valued by employers. Me in a Minute videos posted on social media have attracted in excess of 30,000 hits.

[3] Who is involved?

This initiative is core to Deakin's Strategic Agenda *LIVE the Future 2020*, led by the Vice-Chancellor and Executive, supported by substantial strategic funds, and governed by a collaborative steering group of students and senior leaders representing all faculties and supporting services. Policy calibration ensures adoption and sustainability.

[4] Why are we doing it?

We offer students a 'brilliant education where students are and where they want to go' – and this tool educates and enables students to take ownership of their digital learning evidence, and carry it forward to 'wherever they want to go'.

[5] What are the challenges?

DeakinSync is now the adaptive all-in-one digital space where all students – campus-enrolled as well as 15,000 students engaging only through the cloud – connect with each other, their learning and assessment experiences, teaching and support staff, and potential employers. While the effort to build and deploy this enterprise-wide system has been substantial, DeakinSync meshes seamlessly with unit learning experiences and resources. Increasingly, course-level sites provide information about course learning outcomes, accreditation, careers, networks and resources. Students' perceptions of skill development have increased since the introduction of DeakinSync.

[6] Where is it heading?

The initiative is already operating at scale, and plans are underway to extend access to Deakin graduates and pathway providers, as well as prospective students.

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