



SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY

Location:

Newport, Rhode Island

Program Enrollment:

140 students per year

Success Metrics:

- Validating basic technology skills for college students
- Improving the employability of students
- Offering a global, standardized digital literacy credential



Salve Regina University Helps Students Learn Foundational Technology Skills with IC3 Digital Literacy Certification

Small Private Institution Prepares Well-Rounded Graduates to Lead Responsible Lives

CHALLENGE

Salve Regina University is a Catholic institution in Newport, Rhode Island with approximately 2,600 undergraduate and graduate students. The Department of Business Studies and Economics teaches undergraduates the responsibilities of leadership and prepares them for careers in today's highly competitive global business environment.

In the Salve Regina University Strategic Plan, President Jane Gerety said, "As technology advances, knowledge explodes and the needs of the world evolve, the University must grow and change in order to remain strong and relevant."

The Department of Business Studies and Economics supports this

philosophy by working to introduce students to technology that enhances both their productivity and the effective utilization of all technological resources.

"Many folks think young people have a lot of computer skills, but even though they grew up in a digital world they are not necessarily as confident and comfortable working with technology as some of us might think they are," said Dr. Myra Edelstein, Associate Professor, Business Studies and Economics.

"We want to make sure our student's resumes are as strong as possible and they must have the technology skills that will help them build a solid career."

Several years ago Ms. Judith Keenan, then Applied Technology, Program Coordinator for the Department of Business Studies and Economics, sought

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Dr. Myra Edelstein

Associate Professor
Business Studies and Economics
Salve Regina College

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a certification to give students a basic technology foundation that would prove to the world they were prepared to use modern tools in college and the workplace. She looked for professional certifications to validate those foundational technology skills for students at Salve Regina University.

SOLUTION

Enter the IC3 Digital Literacy certification exams, a globally-recognized certification that validates that an individual knows the basics of computer hardware, software, applications and working in an Internet environment in order to better prepare them for the workforce.

"No one comes in with the standard baseline technology or skill, so we saw IC3 as a way of offering that baseline technology training," said Daniel Titus, Assistant Director, User Support Services.

IC3 became a three-credit course at Salve Regina University, providing students with thorough instruction on the various uses of the computer, important accessories, networking principles and key applications, along with e-mail and Internet principles. The course requires a three-part certification exam – Computing Fundamentals, Key Applications, and Living Online. Students leave with a recognized certificate proving their proficiency in digital literacy from Certipoint, the IC3 provider.

Dr. Nadia Abgrab, Department Chair, Business Studies and Economics, adds, "The IC3 class represents one of the courses in the Applied Technology minor. This evolving field offers students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and perfect their skills

in the business world through a variety of hands-on application courses as well as theory building classes."

RESULTS

The IC3 course is an option for all students who are required to take a technology course at Salve Regina.

"IC3 certification is one of those important claims our students can make on their resume that clearly sets them apart from another job candidate whose resume might be equivalent but who doesn't carry any certification," said Dr. Edelstein. "It helps bring them to a level of capability that we then can trust."

Salve Regina University administrators and professors agree that the IC3 exams are crucial for their students, giving them a great introductory level certifications to enter the workforce and be confident in their skills. "IC3 helps our students compete more evenly in the workforce," said Titus.

Student Nicole Baldassari said, "I feel like my IC3 certification makes me look like a more desirable candidate for a job because it shows that I'm dedicated to my craft as a Tech Support Specialist. I was overheard talking about virus removal by one of the heads of the IT department and they came up and asked me if I wanted a job."

Another student, Samantha Haberman, said IC3 has already helped in her career. "I found the IC3 certification to be very beneficial. While I've been applying for jobs, recruiters have been impressed by the certification; my managers and co-workers have been impressed as well."

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