



Title: Successful Small Group Student-Centered Problem-Based Learning in a Remote Setting

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Abstract:

The dynamics and skills that emerge from small group problem-based learning (PBL) form the cornerstone of the future success of students in the first two years of the curriculum at CVM WesternU. Preserving the structure of the PBL process, group dynamics of interaction, collaboration, and sharing of information, is paramount in providing this learning experience virtually. With sudden change to remote learning in March 2020, we continued PBL delivery through the end of Spring 2020 semester using an intricate process of faculty remote log in to university servers, use of Microsoft OneNote for content, and Zoom to host the videoconferences for PBL groups. With stakeholder feedback and innovative mindset for optimal curriculum delivery virtually, at the beginning of Fall 2020, a single access point for secure video and content sharing by students, faculty and staff was initiated. Microsoft Teams was used to host the sessions, and Microsoft OneNote was linked to share the content. Microsoft Teams proved to be a community for the course in which student and faculty collaborations continued after hours and the file sharing capabilities condensed disparate learning resources. The single-source access point allowed for more rapid tech support, assurance of attendance, and real-time simultaneous messaging to multiple groups. Many of these features will be integrated into delivery of the course when in-person sessions resume. An analysis of the different aspects of this transition will allow us to determine the features that can be hybridized to improve the student and faculty experience in the delivery of this elemental course in our program.