APSU 1000 and SmarterMeasure Integration and Engagement Ideas

Below are ideas for instructors to further integrate SmarterMeasure as part of their APSU 1000 course culture and engage students on the content. These ideas are in addition to the SmarterMeasure content that is already in APSU 1000 (research informed consent, SmarterMeasure assessment, discussion assignment, and survey). As you review this list, consider also how you can capitalize on your peer mentor’s time and abilities.

Additional information for instructors about SmarterMeasure in APSU 1000 is available on Distance Education’s SmarterMeasure website. If you have questions about these ideas or would like assistance, please contact Crystal Faulkner in Distance Education at faulknerc@apsu.edu.

Existing APSU 1000 Assignments

- SmarterMeasure is one of the first assignments your students will complete. This makes it an ideal tool to reference throughout the semester. How can you incorporate the students’ readiness report or SmarterMeasure scales into the course activities you have already planned?
- At midterms, have students review their grades in APSU 1000 and other courses so far. How are they doing? Are there resources in their readiness report that can help them improve before finals?
- During advising and registration, asks students to refer back to their readiness reports. They should consider if they are ready to enroll in online and hybrid courses. What steps can they take to be ready?
- Do you use group work in any of your APSU 1000 assignments or class activities? If so and you assign the groups, consider using the student results in the Instructor Dashboard to assist you with designing the groups. In this way, you can make sure you have at least one or two strong students in each group. Students that have high readiness in Life Factors (availability of time, perception of academic skills, etc.) and Individual Attributes (procrastination, time management, persistence, etc.) may be good contributors and leaders in group work. Learning Styles is another scale that could be used to group students either together or in a blended way.
- When preparing for finals/end of the term, remind students to save a copy of their readiness report so that they can reference it after they no longer have access to the APSU 1000 course content.

Extra Credit Opportunities

If you typically provide students with extra credit opportunities or are interested in beginning this, consider offering students extra credit for:

- Completing the SmarterMeasure Student Feedback Survey in the last week of the course. Feedback is important to improving the use of this tool. Students can provide proof of survey completion by printing their confirmation screen after completing the survey.
- Accessing resources on their readiness report. You can track which resources they accessed and when in the Instructor Dashboard (if resources are accessed through their readiness report in D2L, see Instructor Dashboard Video for how-to). Alternatively, you could ask them to write and submit a short review about the resources they accessed.
Extra Credit Opportunities Continued

- Writing a brief (two or three page) paper in which they reflect on their entire readiness report. The purpose of this paper would be for students to further read in detail their readiness report and reflect upon their results while also providing an instructor with a sample of the student’s writing abilities.
- Developing an action plan. Through their action plans, students can describe how they would like to improve themselves. One component of the plan could be an analysis of their strengths and opportunities for improvement as identified in their readiness report. Another component could be to identify actionable steps to meet their personal and professional development goals. An advantage of this strategy is that the students connect to actionable strategies for improvement.

One-on-One Communication

- Respond to students posts in the SmarterMeasure discussion topics.
- If you would like to discuss students' SmarterMeasure results with them but are not sure where to begin, use this SmarterMeasure Discussion Guide PDF as a starting place for discussion ideas.
- Use the SmarterMeasure Instructor Dashboard to email students personalized messages based on their results. You can also do this in groups. See Group Communication below.
- Reach out to students that struggled in two or more areas and meet with them personally.
- Consider sharing student’s readiness ranges from the Instructor Dashboard with their academic advisor. This information could be very helpful to them in having meaningful discussions with their advisees. Make sure you also share with them a link to Distance Education’s SmarterMeasure website and refer them to Crystal Faulkner in Distance Education at faulknerc@apsu.edu with any questions.

Group Communication

- The SmarterMeasure readiness report refers students to resources available anytime on the internet. Consider having a class discussion or making a News announcement to remind students about APSU resources. Distance Education maintains a list of service offices on our website and also provides an Introduction to Online Courses to help students familiarize themselves with online learning and D2L.
- Use the Instructor Dashboard to email students. You can email individuals, the entire list, or groups of students. For example, you may choose to group email students based on their results. This could include sending targeted emails to students that did not complete the entire assessment prodding them to complete, congratulations to students that scored well overall, or encouraging students that performed poorly to use resources or meet with you.
- In addition to the required discussion topics, you may consider having a less structured discussion about the SmarterMeasure content. Possible topics include having students share what they considered meaningful in their scores, steps they could take to grow in their opportunity for improvement areas, resources they found helpful, etc.
- Lead a class discussion around the top three areas that your section struggled in the most. Utilize the Instructor Dashboard to identify these areas. Discussion can include the three areas and why they are important to learning, resources available online and on-campus, and strategies for improvement.