



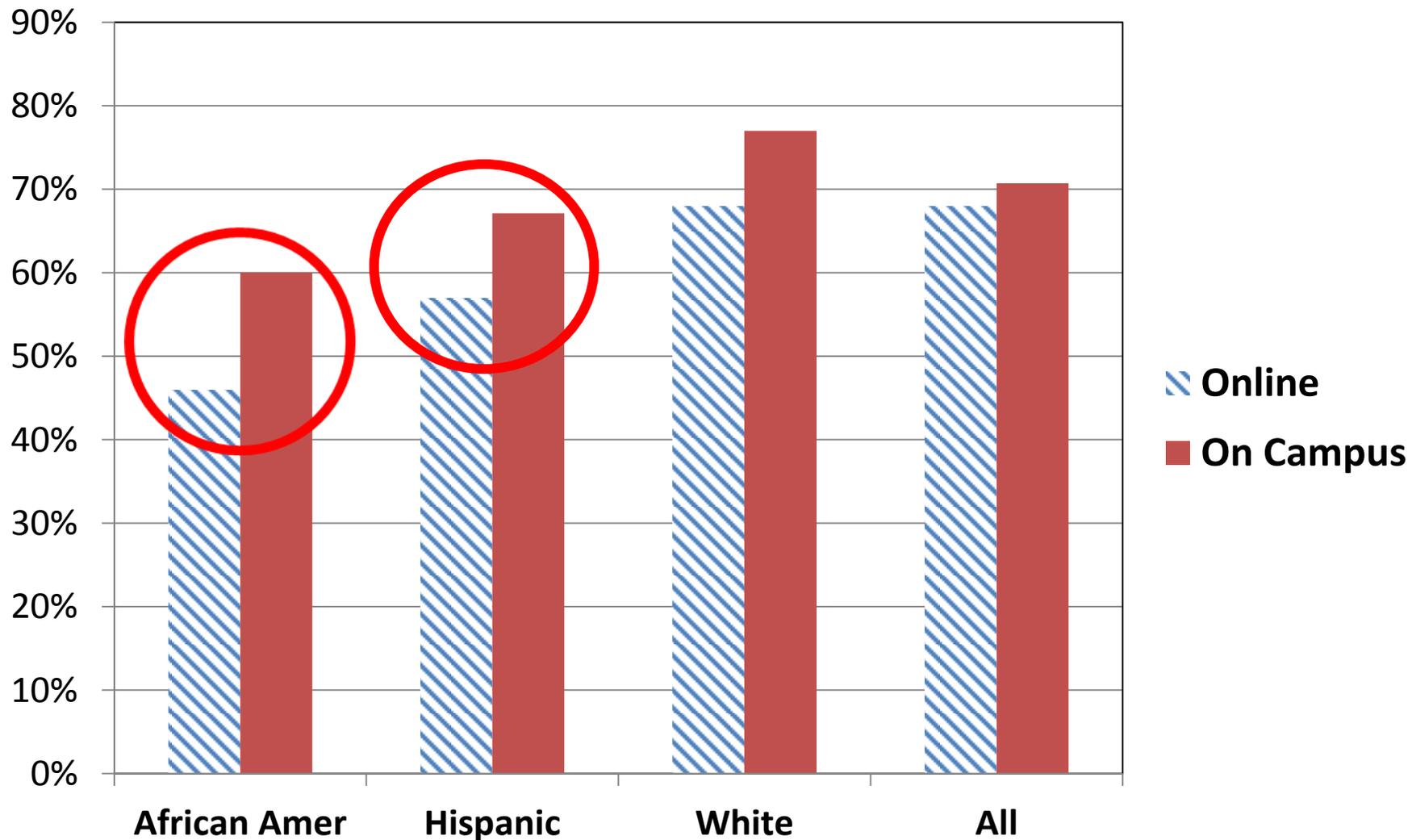
# **Online Student Achievement Gaps: Challenges and Solutions**

**Judy Baker, Ph.D.  
Dean of Online  
Learning  
Foothill College**

# Achievement Gaps ~ Challenges ~ Solutions



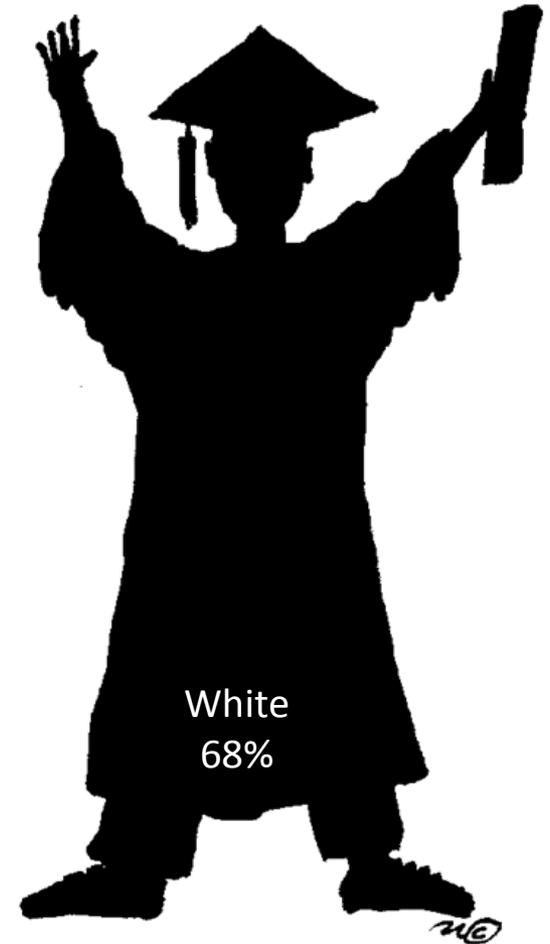
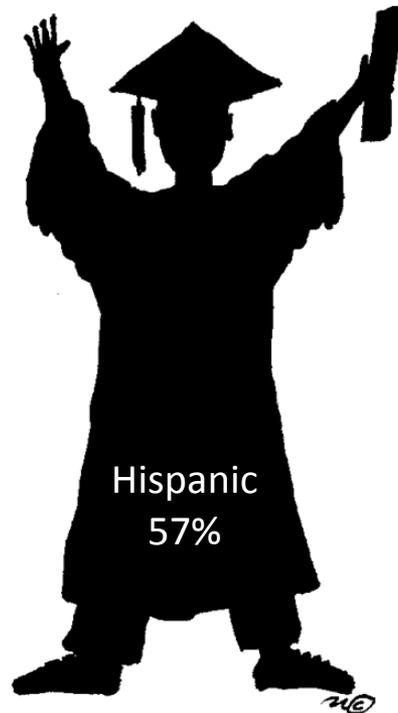
# COURSE SUCCESS



Spring 2015 Success Rates in California Community Colleges

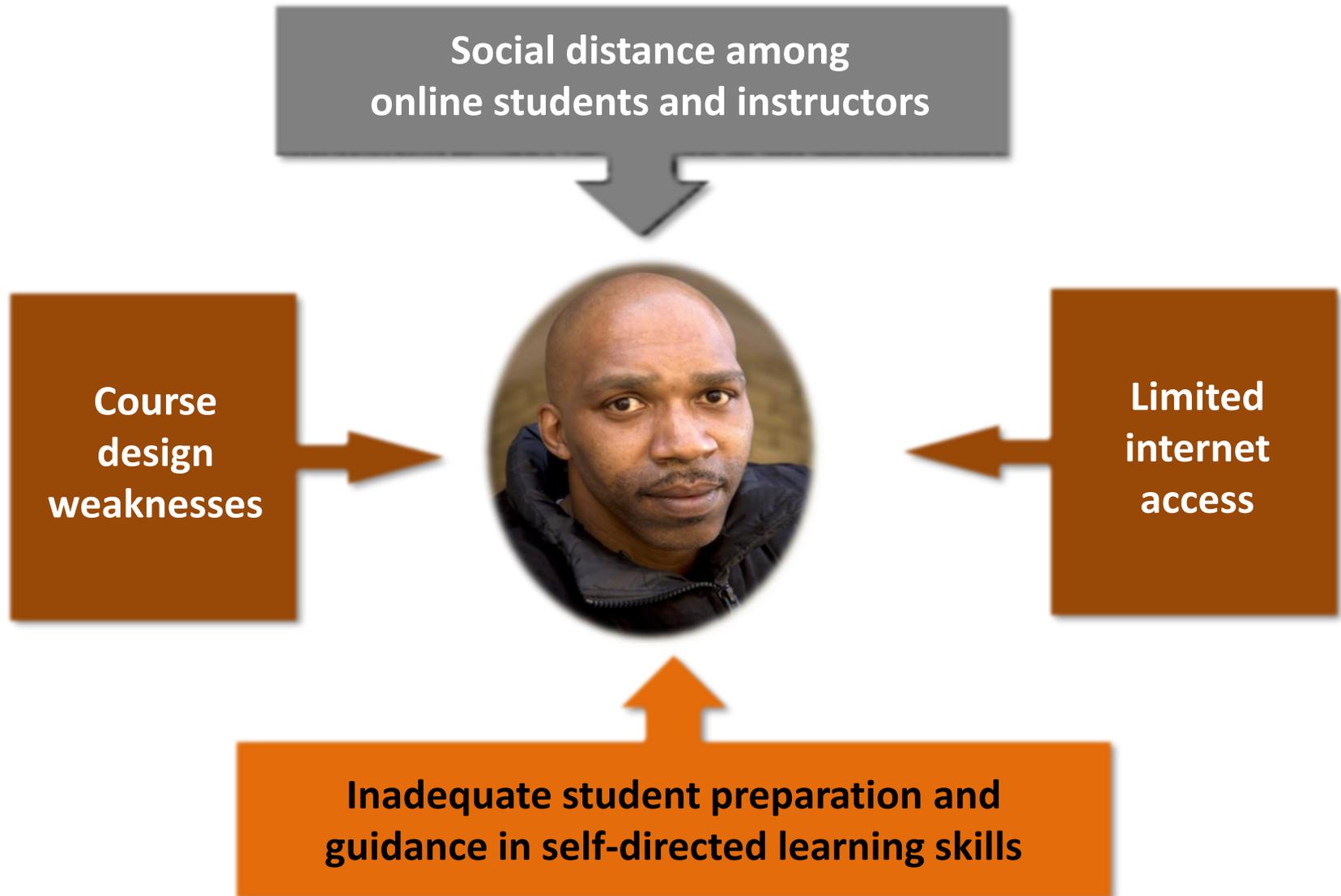
California Community Colleges – Spring 2015

# Student Success Rates



Online Courses

# Multi-Faceted Challenges





**CHALLENGE:** Social distance felt by online students with faculty and fellow students

An illustration of several hands of various skin tones (light brown, tan, and dark brown) reaching in from the edges of the frame to hold a central white circle. The hands are rendered in a stylized, flat-shaded manner. The central circle contains text.

**SOLUTION:**

Increase faculty presence,  
respectful encouragement,  
and validation of students

# **SOLUTION:** Build an interpersonal connection with your students



## **Give effective feedback**

- Timely
- Detailed
- Encouraging
- Thought-Provoking

# **SOLUTION:** Build rapport and trust with your students



- Respond to students' emails promptly
- Maintain a respectful and courteous tone in your communications

# SOLUTION

- Ask your students to develop a set of ground rules for Discussion Board postings to ensure a safe and comfortable class climate for all students
- Nurture interpersonal interactions among your students by using online icebreakers and assigning fun small group tasks



# Use Videoconferencing to Connect



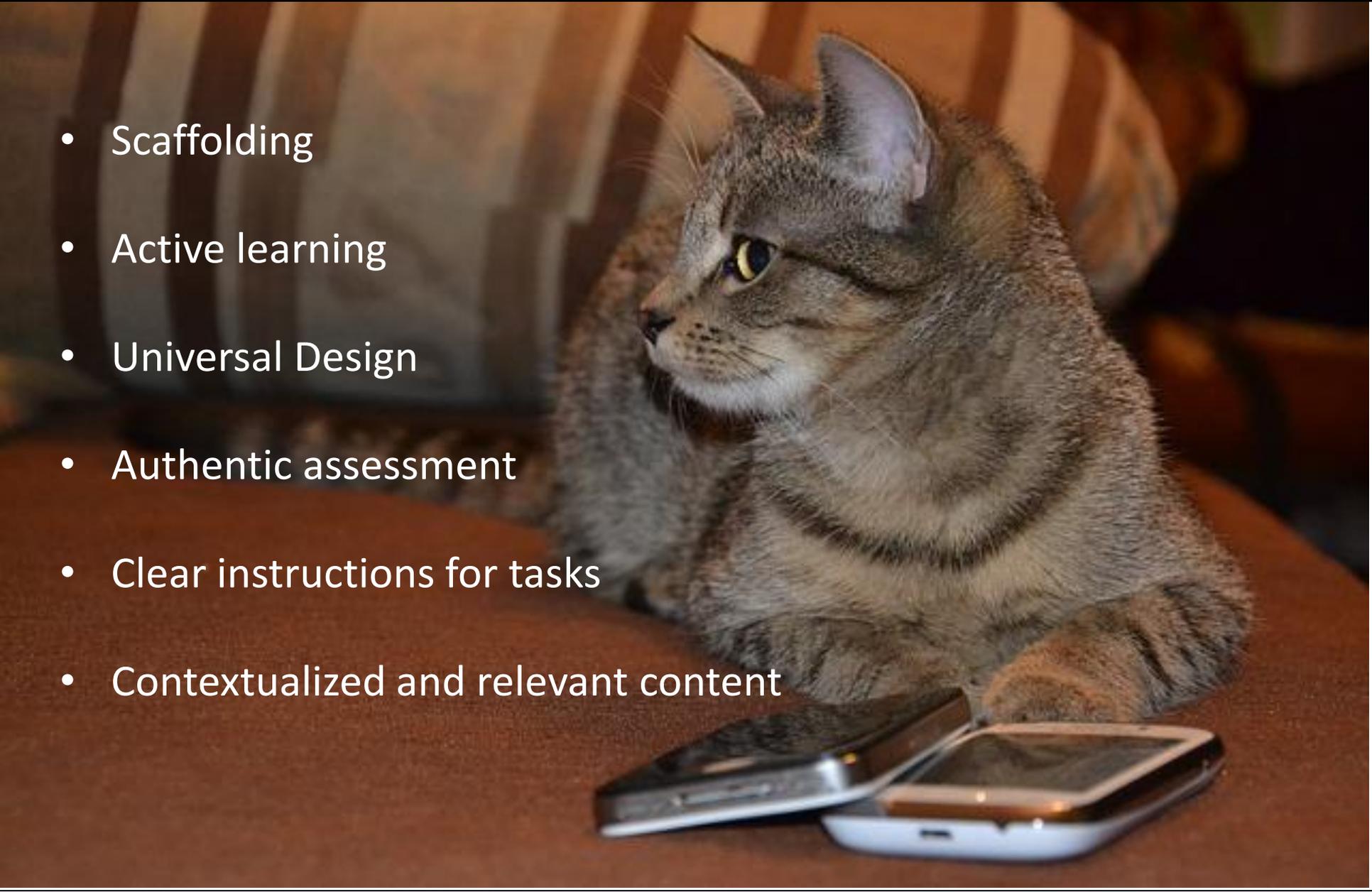
**Get a free Zoom account at [confernow.org](https://confernow.org)**

**SOLUTION:** Encourage faculty to participate in an online class **as a student** PRIOR to teaching an online or hybrid class



## CHALLENGE: Online course design lacks appropriate strategies

- Scaffolding
- Active learning
- Universal Design
- Authentic assessment
- Clear instructions for tasks
- Contextualized and relevant content



# Scaffolding Example 1

Give students an exemplar or model of an assignment that you will ask them to complete.

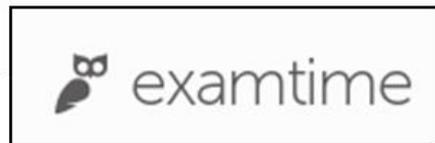


# Scaffolding Example 2

Provide your students with vocabulary lessons **BEFORE** assigning them to read a difficult text.



Flashcard Stash



classmint



# Passive

- Lectures
- Readings
- Watching video
- Listening to audio
- Observing demonstrations



*Passive*

# Active

- Interaction through discussion
- Student-to-student interactions
- Student presentations
- Group projects
- Simulations
- Problem solving



*Active*

# **CHALLENGE:** Lack of student preparation and guidance in self-directed learning skills

- Time management
- Organization
- Help-seeking
- Stress management
- Information literacy
- Communication



# SOLUTION: Provide guidance and tools for students to develop self-directed learning skills such as time management



## The Assignment Calculator

The Assignment Calculator is a time management tool that breaks down research assignments into a series of manageable steps, while providing expert tips for success. Enter the assignment start date and due date to get planning!

MM/DD/YYYY

Start Date:

MM/DD/YYYY

Due Date:

[Calculate Assignment Schedule!](#)

Assignment Period: *Mon Sep 22, 2014 - Fri Dec 5, 2014*

According to the dates you have entered, you have *74 days* to finish.

[Send yourself an email reminder](#) 

**Step 1** **By Wed Sep 24, 2014: *Understand your assignment***

[Suggestions for understanding your assignment](#)

[Terms frequently used in writing assignments](#)

# Lesson in Self-Directed Learning

- **The Monkey Business Illusion**
- Lessons learned?
  - Hard to pay attention to more than one thing at a time
  - We are missing a lot of what goes on around us
  - We may not realize how much we are missing





## [Online Student Readiness Tutorials](http://apps.3cmediasolutions.org/oei/students.html)

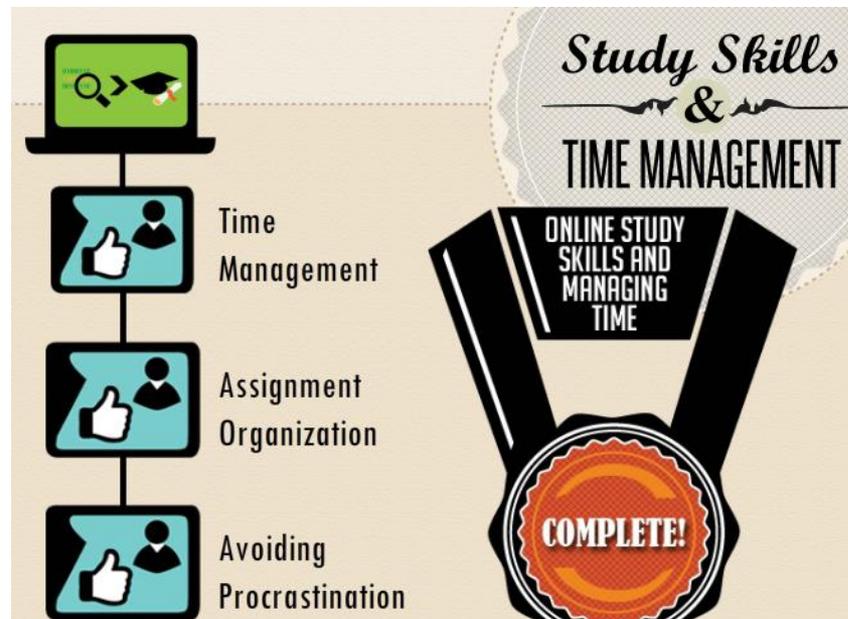
<http://apps.3cmediasolutions.org/oei/students.html>

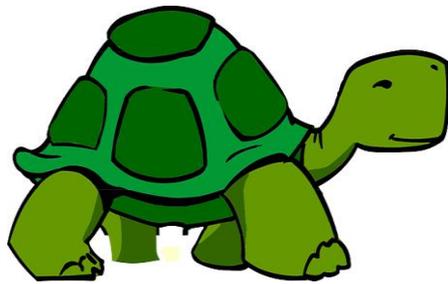
### • Topics

- Introduction to Online Learning
- Getting Tech Ready
- Organizing for Online Success
- [Online Study Skills and Managing Time](#)
- Communication Skills
- Online Reading Strategies
- Career Planning
- Educational Planning
- Instructional Support

### • Interactive Tools

- [Cost Calculator](#)
- [Computer Readiness Test](#)
- [Daily Schedule Calculator](#)
- [Study Schedule](#)





**CHALLENGE:**  
**Limited access to fast and  
reliable Internet connections**



**Watching lengthy instructional videos  
on a slow internet connection  
is annoying!**



# SOLUTION

Create and select instructional videos that are no longer than 6 minutes



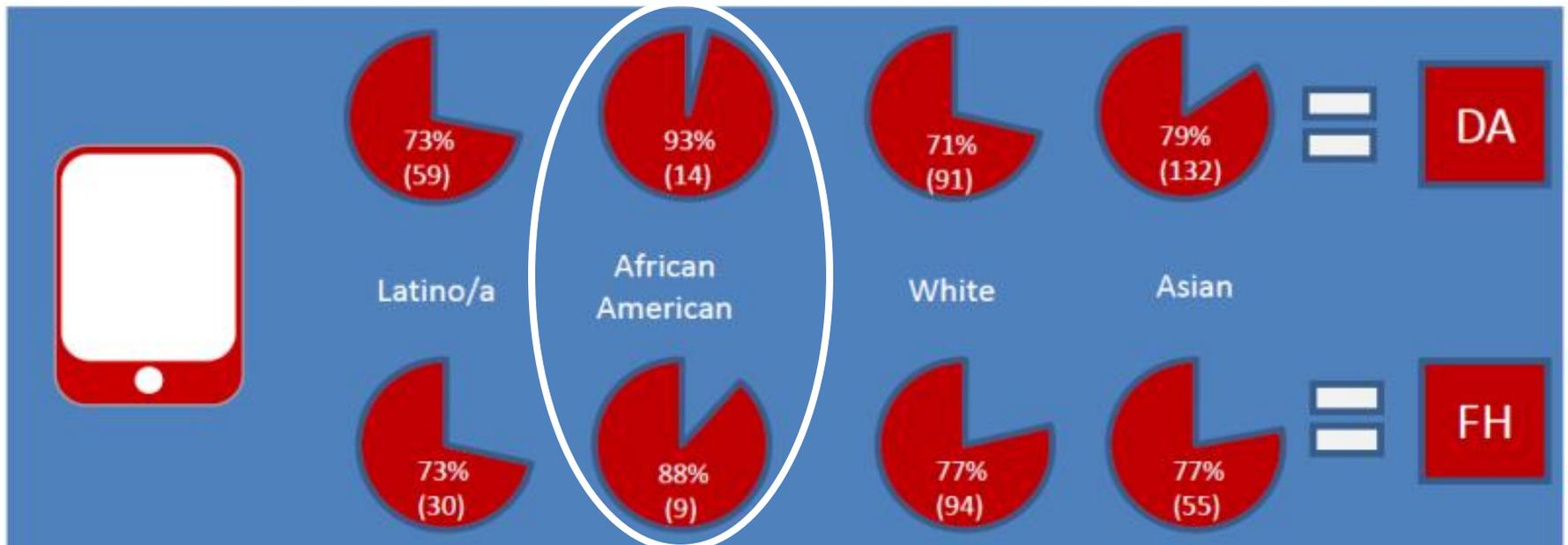
Give students versions of course site content that can be easily downloaded and used offline



**CHALLENGE:** Design of online courses and online student services webpages often not optimized for mobile devices



# Foothill-De Anza Student Device Ownership



**76% of FHDA students own a smartphone**

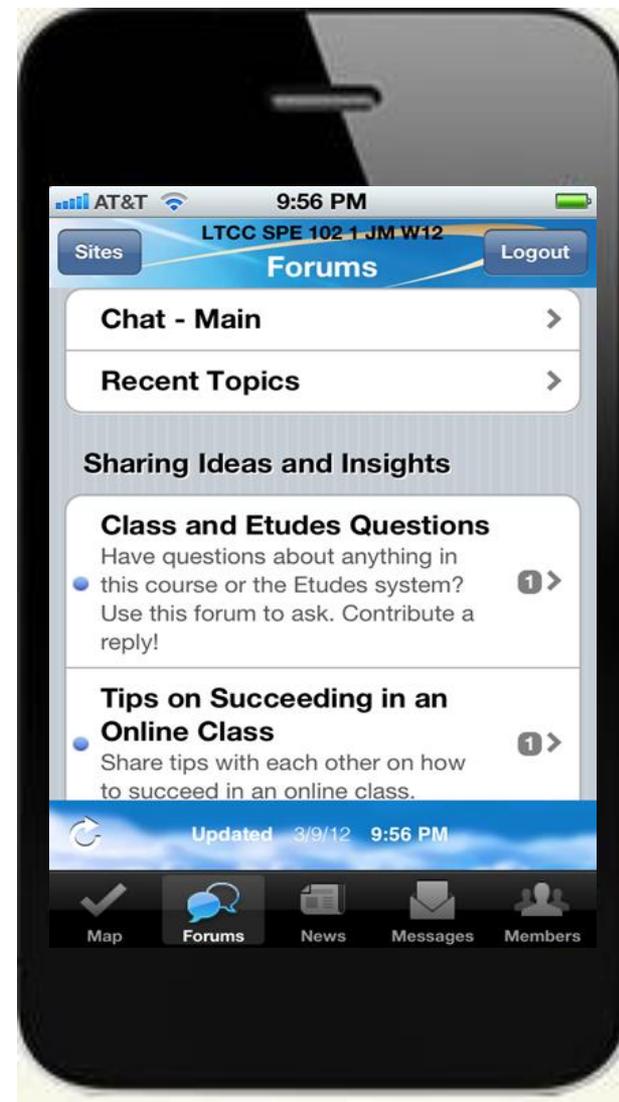


**SOLUTION:** Design online course sites and student services webpages that are suitable for use with mobile devices

# Course Management System - Etudes



Not Optimized for Mobile



Optimized for Mobile



**How do you plan to apply what you learned?**

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