

APPLYING FLIPPED LEARNING TO PLACEMENT PREPARATION AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS: CAN IT BE DONE?

LOUISA MATWIEJCZYK

LECTURER, NUTRITION AND DIETETICS, FLINDERS UNIVERSITY
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY, BEDFORD PARK SA 5000

MARGARET ALEXANDER

CAREERS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, CAREERS AND EMPLOYER LIAISON CENTRE
FLINDERS UNIVERSITY, BEDFORD PARK SA 5000

Purposeful reflective practice is crucial to students' learning and in allied health practice, differentiates between the ordinary and the extraordinary. Despite the importance of reflective practice, the literature and experts concur that this skill is not taught well and by final year students have disengaged from it. Employers want graduates competent at reflective practice and other employability skills such as effective communication, interpersonal skills, teamwork and competency managing a demanding workload.

Question: Can 18 hours of classroom teaching be delivered as Flipped Learning over a two day intensive to prepare final year dietetic students for 40 weeks of placement and introduce employability skills?







Aim: to prepare students through an increased understanding and application of (1) underpinning skills such as reflective practice (2) competency-based learning and (3) an awareness of self and emerging professional identity.

Pre-class: included presenting the basic concepts students needed to remember and understand as byte-sized videos, online narrated PowerPoints with embedded checkpoints, short online quizzes and completing validated questionnaires.

In the classroom: students worked in small teams and using reflective practice applied what they had learned about themselves and from the pre-class work to problem-based scenarios from practitioners, hypothetical client situations and to themselves.

On completion: students submitted a reflection which was peer-reviewed. While on community placement, learnings were further consolidated in fortnightly reflective practice tutorials.

Conclusion: Placement readiness and teaching employability skills can be effectively done through Flipped Learning. Direct instruction moved from lectures to the individual and then in subsequent interactive tutorials, the educators guided students to apply concepts and engage meaningfully in skills for placement and employability.

OLD (Before the Flip)	NEW (After the Flip)	
 <p>Read the materials</p>	Before Class	 <p>Complete interactive learning materials</p> <p>'Two Essential Skills for Transitioning into the Workplace'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reflective practice Knowledge of preferred learning styles (PLS) complete video, narrated interactive ppt, Honey & Mumford PLS questionnaire, online quiz of key learnings <p>'Taking Responsibility for Your Performance'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> giving & receiving feedback understanding your relationship with yourself and others (Johari Window) complete video, narrated interactive ppt, VIA Strengths questionnaire, online quiz of key learnings <p>'Managing Difficult Conversations in the Workplace'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attend two lunchtime lectures on conflict and negotiation
 <p>Listen to the Lectures</p>	During Class	 <p>Practice applying with feedback</p> <p>'Managing Yourself in the Workplace'</p> <p>Apply reflective practice to pre-class work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> debrief problem solve real practice scenarios apply to clients with different PLS identify your underutilised areas <p>'Managing Critical Conversations in the Workplace'</p> <p>Apply knowledge & awareness of strengths to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> developing & projecting your professional identity problem-solving real practice scenarios practicing use of assertion 'tools'
 <p>Homework or Nothing</p>	After Class	 <p>Check understanding & extend learning beyond Intensive</p> <p>For that Certificate of Accomplishment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> submit reflective practice piece online peer review two posts complete online quiz reflecting on the Intensive <p>Beyond the Intensive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> apply reflective practice at fortnightly final-year community placement tutorials. apply purposeful reflective practice in clinical & community placements