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NETS Assessment
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As an education professor at Manchester College, I have to admit, we are behind the times when it comes to integrating technology into our education classes.   Since starting my doctorate at Ball State, however, I have taken the lead at pushing my students, and even my colleagues, into areas they have not traveled into before. I knew right away that the department was behind and that is one of the reasons I chose to add the Education Technology cognate to my Ed.D. Even though I have taken several Ed Tech courses, I still feel quite a bit behind.

When I took the MyTarget survey at http://mytarget.iassessment.com, I was actually surprised with my answers. I do use technology much more than I ever used to and I do require my students to include it in their own lesson planning. I have moved beyond integrating PowerPoint, which at one time was a big deal for me to move from the overhead to the computer slide show! Today, I maintain Blackboard sites for all of my courses, and students have access to their grades as well as course documents any time they have access to the Internet. I also maintain a personal web site and I manage our education department's web site. More importantly, though, I work with one of the media specialists on campus and we help my students develop several different types of web enabled projects. One of them is a simple Webquest they develop for a unit. Another is an online reading activity they create with partners for a science-related children's book. The culminating activity for students enrolled in my upper level courses is the design of their own professional web site. This can serve as either a model for a future classroom site they would like to maintain or it can serve as a digital portfolio.

Part of my professional development involves participating in a national Council of Independent College's program: Teach 21. 20 teacher education programs were selected to participate in this leadership group, designing ways to share how we prepare our pre-service teachers to teach 21st century children and young people. Our communication occurs via email and in the Tapped-In environment. As I network with other teams from around the United States, I am growing as a professional and I am sharing what I do as well.

So, when reflecting on the NETS standards for teachers, I would have to say I actually do achieve more of the standards when I first began this course:

Standard I: Teachers demonstrate a sound understanding of technology operations and concepts.

- As a professor, I maintain a professional web site as well as Blackboard sites for each of my courses.
- I frequently incorporate a variety of technologies and continue to do so as I learn them.

Standard II: Teachers plan and design effective learning environment and experiences supported by technology.

- Several of the assignments I created in rGrade demonstrate my ability to plan and design experiences for my students that are supported by technology. For example, one of the assignments has the students enrolled in EDUC 352 create and implement a Webquest that supports a thematic unit they are creating. Before creating their own, I have them complete a Webquest that I created for them.

Standard III: Teachers implement curriculum plans that include methods and strategies for applying technology to maximize student learning.

- Again, the use of Blackboard as well as rubrics and lessons created in rGrade demonstrate my ability to create plans that allow for the application of technology.

Standard IV: Teachers apply technology to facilitate a variety of effective assessment and evaluation strategies.

- Until recently, this was one of my weakest areas. However, with the experience of rGrade and with the implementation this coming fall of Taskstream, I will certainly improve in this area. Programs like rGrade and Taskstream allow educators to assess student work using online rubrics, and from their data can be analyzed and used to influence instruction.

Standard V: Teachers use technology to enhance their productivity and professional practice.

- As I grow more and more comfortable with technology, this is the one standard I know I am meeting. Programs like Blackboard and Taskstream make me a much more productive teacher. I am able to provide my students with a service I couldn't do before. I am also able to use Blackboard to keep grades and Taskstream to track data for specific INTASC standards. Furthermore, our campus has adopted a program called MC Connect which allows me to access information about my students and advisees.

Standard VI: Teachers understand the social, ethical, legal, and human issues surrounding the use of technology in PK-12 schools and apply those principles in practice.

- One of the aspects of my online assignments is making sure my students understand the legal issues of using other people's work. We also discuss FERPA issues in regards to web publishing especially that of children's work and pictures.