Reaching student by student in an online larger chemistry class using learning assistants

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Rationale:

In an online large class of general chemistry is hard for the instructor to reach the students one by one. Here we use the learning assistants (LA) to aid students in one by one basis. LAs are students who already took the class and master all the topics in the class.

Description:

The first week of class: I meet with the learning assistants to discuss how we will approach each student and how they will be better served.

The second week of class: We established the plan and assignments for each learning assistant, in my class this fall semester I have 5 students to help 450 students.

Remaining weeks: Learning assistants helped and are helping students in different modalities as:

1) Preparing short videos with questions that students mistake the most in the tests (the videos are delivered in a synchronized format and recording to make them available to all students).

2) Learning assistants meeting students in one to one basis, filling out the gaps that they may have while learning new concepts (peer to peer .

3) Learning assistants solve the homeworks in their own languages for students in a synchronized mode, so students can be better prepared for the final exam.

Week eight: an evaluation of the performance of the instructor and learning assistants was performed to gather information on how to improve the experience for the students in the general chemistry class.

Week fourteen: A survey will be sent to all students that made use of the learning assistant, to evaluate what they like or did not like from the program.

Appraisal:

A survey will be used by the end of the semester.

References:

Life Sciences Education • 16:ar62, 1–10, Winter 2017

Link or explanation: I do have videos made by the Learning assistants in my webcourses available to anyone who is interested