



Chapter 11

Autonomous Creative Learning Strategy Directed to Higher Education Students in Health Area


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ABSTRACT

As digital native learners, Z and Alpha generation students upcoming new challenges for Higher Education Institutions. Their early contact with technological devices does not in itself confer the necessary digital skills to correctly apply technology in academic or professional contexts. Digital skills are fundamental to the future health professionals, improving their academic performance and prepares them for their integration into the labor market. The integration of information and communication technologies in the curricula of higher education courses in the health area is a differentiating factor for academic and professional enhancement. The Autonomous Creative Learning Strategy directed to higher education students in the health area is based on project-oriented approaches, combined with interactive and immersive based-gaming learning activities that appeal to creativity, autonomy and encourage proactivity, self-learning, and the constant search for continuous improvement.

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INTRODUCTION

Higher Education Institutions must be prepared to face Z and Alpha generation students upcoming new challenges. As digital native learners, they present different capabilities and different needs. Early contact with technological devices and permanent access to heterogeneous sources of information means that their relationship with large volumes of information is established from childhood. However, being familiar with technology by using technological devices such as mobile phones, computers, or game consoles daily, or using social networks and streaming platforms, does not in itself confer the necessary digital skills to correctly apply technology in academic or professional contexts.

The integration of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) teaching in the curricula of higher education health courses gives students and future health professionals a significant added value in terms of curriculum, gives them the digital skills necessary for better academic performance in the various course units and prepares them for their integration into the labor market.

Teaching information and communication technologies to health higher education students face significant challenges. In addition to generational challenges, the profile of these students lacks basic technological training. Often, they have difficulties in clearly understanding the technology and its potential applications, as well as the ability to effectively communicate and integrate it into academic and research work.

It is important to develop pedagogical strategies that motivate students to learn, practice, and integrate ICT into academic activities. These strategies should take a multidimensional approach, addressing aspects that reveal the importance of ICT as a differentiating factor, for academic and professional enhancement, which allows students to have the perception that the time invested in developing this type of skills will be largely compensated throughout the course because they start to do tasks more effectively and efficiently, and that activities and tasks are defined and integrated into motivating projects capable of mobilizing students to actively participate in the teaching/learning process and that simultaneously encourage the development of certain soft skills.

As part of education and professional development, ICT can provide students and future professionals with a wide range of resources, including digital libraries, online journals, and databases. The ICT provides virtual spaces that allow students to establish bridges between face-to-face and virtual interaction. tools for real-time collaboration and communication allowing students to work together on projects and assignments enable the creation of interactive and engaging learning experiences which can lead to better learning.

First, this work analyzes the relation between the generations Z and Alpha with technology, highlights the importance of acquiring ICT skills for future health

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