Knewton Alta

Evaluation guide for adaptive learning courseware

We asked instructors who use Knewton Alta what crucial questions they asked—or wish they'd asked—when considering which courseware to adopt for their students. They came up with questions about course curriculum, program navigation, knowledge gap remediation, affordability, and more.

Take advantage of their expertise and use this guide to help you think through some of your most pressing concerns when trying to make the best courseware decision for your students.

WILEY

Needs assessment

Before you begin evaluating potential courseware, take a few minutes to identify exactly what you need. Write out a few thoughts answering the questions below. Then, as you review your options, consult your responses and see which courseware addresses your needs.

Engagement in the classroom

What opportunities or challenges do you encounter with student engagement? And how might a courseware solution help?

Career outcomes

What does your course need to provide students to prepare them for their professional careers?

Accessibility, equity, and inclusivity

In what ways does your course need to address accessibility, equity, and inclusivity? Are there specific guidelines, policies, or regulations you need to follow?

Virtual learning

How do your students respond to virtual learning? What are the biggest challenges it poses for them?
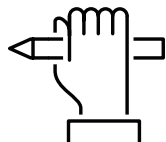
Mental health

What are some common mental health challenges your students experience? How do their courses impact these challenges? What type of support do they need?

Additional needs

Is there anything else that's important for you to consider when evaluating courseware? What challenges specific to your classroom would you like an adaptive learning courseware to play a role in solving?

Evaluation checklist

As you evaluate your courseware options, keep in mind the needs you've detailed above and review our checklist below to see how well each solution addresses the following areas.

Academic rigor — Is the content appropriately challenging for your course?

Content quality — Are there enough varying types of questions and easy-to-understand, thorough explanations?

Instructor reporting — Is there straightforward performance reporting for you to analyze?

Personalization — Can you customize lessons or assignments to fit each student's unique needs?

Prerequisite gaps — Can you identify and address any knowledge gaps—for individuals and for the class overall?
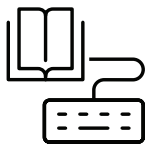
Student feedback — Do your students receive clear feedback so they can assess their understanding and determine improvement areas?

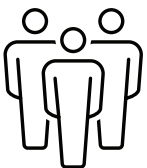**Empowerment** — Will the program help your students to effectively manage their coursework and reach mastery on their own?
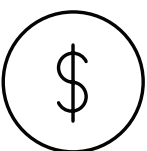
Evaluation checklist

Flexibility

Can students successfully complete their lessons around their other courses and time commitments?

Career readiness

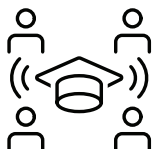Do lessons and assignments adequately prepare your students for the skills they'll need in their careers?

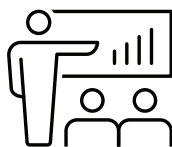**Affordability**

Are your students able to afford the courseware?

User interface

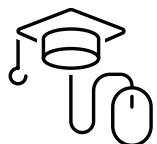Is the program intuitive and easy to use for both you and your students?

Accessibility

Does the program meet standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act and any additional standards your institution requires?

Equity and Inclusivity

Are the courseware's lesson topics, language, and visual representations considerate of all students?

Integration

How well can the program integrate with your current learning management system (LMS)?