



Country-Ghana

Ashesi University Achieves Operational Efficiency with Camu SIS

It is a fact; Student Information Systems play a key role in facilitating the successful management and governance of universities with a strict, pedagogical approach to higher education. With their diverse set of needs and complex requirements, the requisite for a robust solution in this regard is a must. However, it seems like a monumental task to find that perfect resolution. Or is it?

Since its founding in 2002, Ashesi University has been touted as one of the finest academic Institution in Africa, combining traditional design with modern technology and environmental best practices, to mould ethical, entrepreneurial leaders of the future. Established as an independent, public benefit educational institution operating on a not-for-profit basis, Ashesi seeks to empower students to propel in their respective fields, whilst making a positive impact on society.

The university's rigorous, multidisciplinary, curriculum consists of degree programs in Computer Science, Business

Administration, Management Information Systems and Engineering. Add to the mix, student-led honour codes, integrated community service, diverse internships, and real-world projects, and you've got an advanced academic program (unlike any other in Africa), led by 100 faculty members and 1,200 students.

Ashesi serves as the catalyst that brings about change, pushing students to develop innovative solutions towards hardships faced in their individual communities, countries and the continent at large. And with this ambitious mission in mind, the university began exploring ed-tech solutions that would help navigate operational efficiency, as well as improve student engagement and lifecycles. After all, ensuring System Quality, Information Quality and Information Presentation impacts the overall trajectory of higher education.

In 2017, Ashesi partnered with Camu to streamline administrative records, specifically student registrations, through the effective implementation of a Student Management Information system.

As with other large-scale institutions across the globe, Ashesi had to manage and safeguard a vast repository of data across disparate systems within its campus; from student admissions and enrolments to course registrations and grading systems. But storing information manually brought with it its own set of complex challenges. This prompted the university to begin its quest to find an appropriate ed-tech solution that would carefully consolidate and govern all its data, which led to the partnership with Camu, an intuitive and agile online platform that inspires academicians to reach their educational goals.



Building an Integrated, Interactive Platform

Camu began a comprehensive 3 stage implementation process to set up the robust Student Information System. As a first step requirements Study was done and with a detailed solution validation study, to map the university's specific needs to the software solution. It then moved on to a Gap Analysis, identifying any discrepancies in the system, and developing specific solutions to mitigate each. After validating the entire platform, Camu forayed ahead with Data Migration. By extracting data from the existing system, Camu was able to create new data sets that aligned with multi-faceted university requirements. The last stage involved ensuring that faculty and students had the necessary training and skills to successfully steer the SIS.

Camu was instrumental in guiding the following operational changes. Course structures were designed with the goal of enabling students to self-manage their own flow charts. Lecture scheduling was initiated by accounting for and automating staff conflict, lecture hall conflicts and time conflicts. Additionally, all course codes were designed to ensure 100% uniqueness. As such, Camu successfully integrated the university's departments of Curriculum Definition – course structure, The Plantilla Builder – lecture scheduling, Student Registration and Grading. Now Ashesi can centrally manage its courses within a single database, enabling all policies and pre-requisites to be determined beforehand.

Since its implementation, Camu's SIS has propelled Ashesi students in the right direction, guiding them through a sequence of processes and actions in a systematic fashion, thereby leading to accomplishing definitive learning outcomes.

Critical Learnings and Success Factors



- Rationalisation of course codes and logic of determining when course codes need to be split is critical.
- A structured approach to lecture planning is key to ensuring a seamless learning experience for students.
- Course structure, policies and pre-requisites need to be defined with clarity to enable students to go through the learning as per the flow chart.

Measurable Outcomes



- The institution may simply open registrations, once grades from the previous semester are published – only lecture scheduling is a pre-requisite.
- Students are able to register for their courses without conflict.
- Students can track their progress and can register as per their flow chart.
- The lectures can start immediately after registration.
- The registrations are available online immediately for registry and no manual work is required.
- The LMS system is instantly updated with student registration information so that teaching faculty may progress with learning activities.

Student Journeys made Seamless with Camu SIS

Camu's efficient Student Information System has enabled students and faculty to access important administrative information on one integrated cloud-based platform. Having a cohesive system such as this empowers students to track their individual progress in a smooth manner. From perusing feedback and assessment grades to planning study patterns based on course design, students are awarded with a certain level of autonomy and independence, thereby nudging them towards excellence.

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