

The Online Mad Libs

1. Noun - Plural
2. Verb - Present Tense
3. Noun
4. Proper Noun

The Online Mad Libs

Until OCNE came along, _____ Noun - Plural in the RNBS program were _____ Verb - Present Tense RNs returning to school to fulfill a dream they cherished or because their _____ Noun told them they needed a bachelor's degree. We still have these students--they are the folks we now call " _____ Proper Noun " RNBS.

But in fall 2009, the first wave of OCNE AD graduates showed up. There were 84 of them. They came from Clackamas, Lane, Mt Hood, Rogue, Southwestern and Umpqua--your graduates. They were co-admitted to OHSU when they began your program and now they wanted to go right ahead to their bachelor's degree, and they figured they could do it online.

They were the biggest group we had ever admitted in one swoop. While we had prided ourselves in being flexible enough to accommodate working RNs, as it turned out, these students were a very different population than we were used to...

Most of them were just in the process of getting jobs or starting new jobs. They already were quite familiar with online and figured they could squeeze it in as long as they had access to whatever they needed exactly when they needed it. Unlike working RNs who usually paid for their courses as they went through the program, these students were counting on financial aid.

From

our side, we could only respond to their needs as they showed up. And sometimes those needs showed up more dramatically than others.

We sent out surveys and emails to get acquainted. We revised our program of study to provide 6 credits a term so these new students could qualify for financial aid. The OHSU Financial Aid office worked overtime to distribute the aid. Catherine Salvesson, our Program Director, reassigned faculty to cover the larger courses.

In short, we were building the road at the same time we were stepping on the gas. And I think you know how well that works.