



Encouraging Timely LINKS Payments

While LINKS Simulations routinely e-mails multiple payment reminders to students between event initialization and the first scheduled game run, LINKS instructors must also proactively encourage their students to pay for LINKS with a personal credit card.

In this Insight, a new LINKS instructor describes her highly successful strategies/tactics for encouraging students to pay for LINKS in a timely manner.

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100% of Nancy Farrell's Spring/2018 students completed payments prior to the scheduled initialization of her LINKS event.

Our college utilizes a learning management system (Desire2Learn) to provide course shells for each class that is offered in any given semester. For a class that meets in person, this shell provides a handy place to store the syllabus and to provide receptacles for items that need to be submitted.

In the syllabus, I provided a week-by-week grid that shows what work needs to be done each week and what is due. I provided dropboxes for many purposes, but the very first dropbox was one for the student to provide a screenshot of their "paid receipt" from the LINKS system.

Each week, students can look at the syllabus, then look at the weekly module in D2L to see content and dropboxes. Paying for LINKS was the only item that was due during week 2, so I believe the students felt compelled to get the payment out of the way early.

I had a few students who used different e-mail addresses when they paid which triggered a mismatch in the LINKS system. I was easily able to paste an answer from the LINKS FAQs in an e-mail to these few students letting them know how to reconcile the error.