

Helix[®] Introducing a whole new way of teaching and learning

Helix takes the best of innovations in learning technology, cognitive science, and the wisdom of an institution, and puts them into one powerful learning environment—an environment designed to engage students like never before and enable a level of scalability and effectiveness that has the power to fundamentally change the way we experience higher education.

Engagement through storytelling

Cognitive science has taught us that our brains are wired to learn best through stories. Acting on this research, the Helix environment customizes every course with a story personalized to the student's interests and degree goals. This powerful ability allows Helix to add relevance to all subject matter, and creates a narrative framework for learning that improves retention of information and engagement.

The screenshot shows the Helix user interface for a course titled "PHO 101: Intro to Digital Photography". The top navigation bar includes "Classroom", "Program Overview", and "Progress Report". A user profile for "Doug" is visible with "Settings" and "Logout" options. The course title is displayed in the header, along with a dropdown menu for "PHO 101".

The main content area is titled "Welcome..." and contains a paragraph of introductory text. To the right, a box titled "In this class..." lists the following topics:

- Basics of digital photography
- Learn to use your camera
- Anatomy of a digital camera
- Composing and shooting your photos
- Understanding aperture and exposure
- Editing your photos with Photoshop

Below the welcome message, there is a section titled "Choose a story..." with three options:

- Sports Photographer:** "There are many disciplines of photography that require a certain technique to get the best out of it. Sports photography is one that requires quick reflexes, confidence in your camera equipment and knowing what settings you can use quickly to capture the fast pace of what you are taking pictures of." Includes a "Choose Story" button.
- Wedding Photographer:** "If you are serious about wedding photography it has to be an SLR, nothing else will do. Exponents of both these major brands will argue about which is superior and although Nikon were a little slow out of their blocks concerning stabilised lenses, there is little to choose between them." Includes a "Choose Story" button.
- Safari Photographer:** "There are many pitfalls technically which the enthusiast new to this metier may well fall into. It is essential again that good research is done. For those of you who don't want to spend money on equipment, and are happy with very good photos rather than absolute prize winners." Includes a "Choose Story" button.

A context for learning

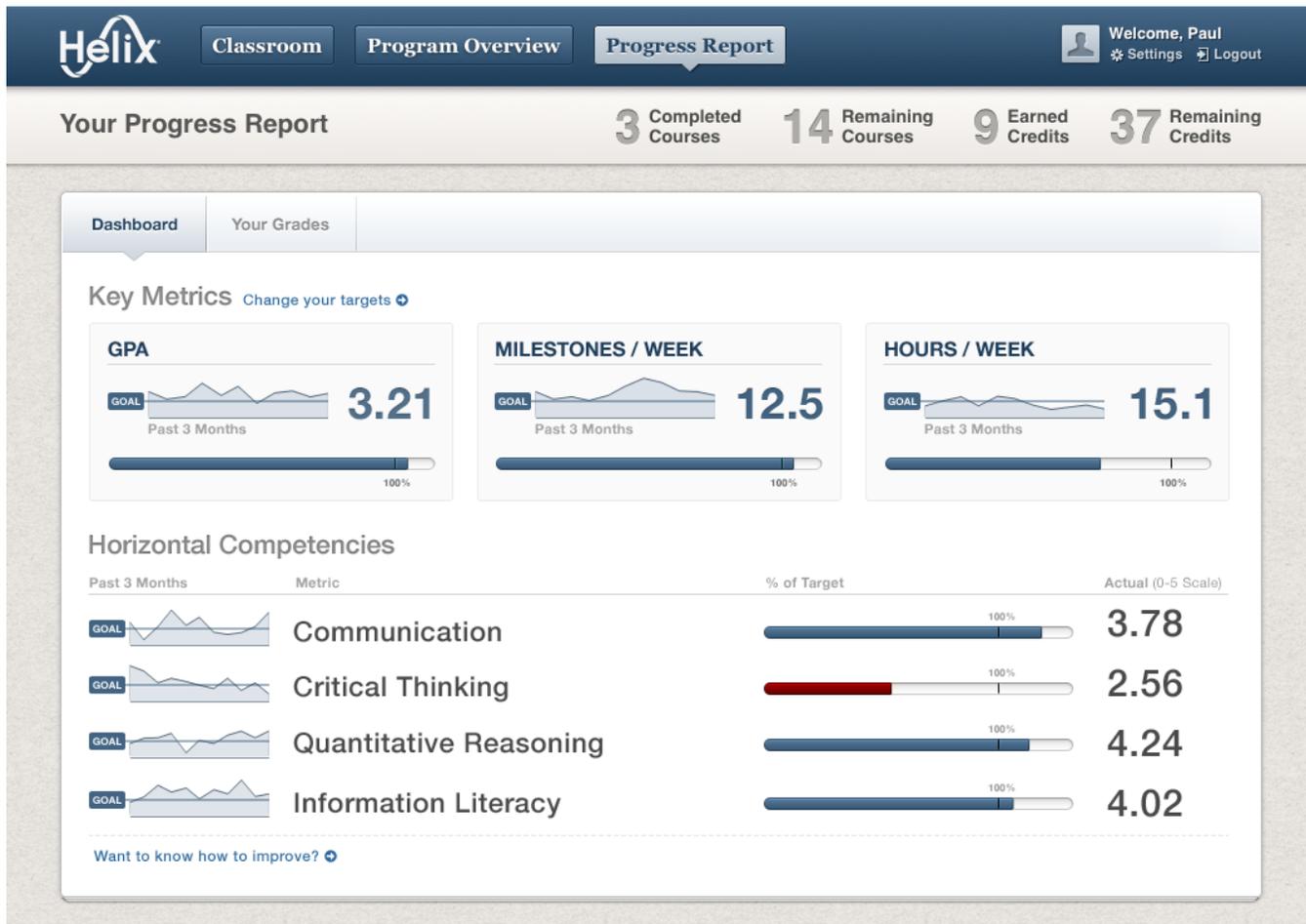
Helix's stories allow students to absorb new skills and concepts in a way that is relevant and engaging.

The power of choice

Students choose a narrative that fits their interests so they are in control of their learning experience.

Adaptive and empowering

Helix's adaptive capabilities go beyond competency levels and placement tests to create an educational experience that is completely tailored to a student's learning pace, degree program, and completion goals.



Goal-focused

Helix adapts to a student's goals for completion pace, degree and major. The level of competency required in each topic is tailored to the needs of the student's degree and major, ensuring that each student will be precisely prepared for the path they choose to pursue, and can achieve their goals as quickly as possible.

Individually paced and self-motivating

Students can customize the pace of their education to their life situation and learning needs. While they progress through the program, constant feedback about their rate of learning empowers students to make informed decisions about how to schedule their time.

Competency-based adaptation

The instruction and coursework within Helix allows students to personalize their learning experience based on their aptitude. Students have the option to test their current knowledge of a topic, then the system adapts the learning path to the student's distinct needs.

Social experiences that enhance learning

Group assignments, study sessions, debates, and discussions are part of what makes taking a college course a rewarding and enlightening experience. Students learn better when they are working together to solve problems and tackle complex subjects. In the Helix learning environment, social learning experiences provide students with opportunities to connect with instructors and each other, and create a fulfilling setting to work and learn.

The screenshot shows the Helix Classroom interface for the course PHO 100: Intro to Digital Photography. The top navigation bar includes 'Classroom', 'Program Overview', and 'Progress Report'. The user is logged in as Sara. The main content area is titled 'Answer Forum' and features a search bar and sort options (Relevance, Recent, Unanswered, Following). A list of questions is displayed, each with a user profile picture, the question text, and statistics (votes and responses). The questions include: 'What are the most important factors to consider in a composition?', 'Why should we pay attention to the background and foreground?', 'How will a wide-angle lens impact my composition?', 'How can I make a more interesting composition?', 'What are the most important factors to consider in a composition?', 'What is the role of light in composition?', and 'Why should we pay attention to the background and foreground?'. A 'Return to Classroom' button is located at the bottom of the forum.

Peer-2-Peer exchanges

Our collaborative answer forum provides students and instructors with a platform to openly exchange ideas and help each other master course content.

Collaborative learning exercises

Courses feature group projects that require students to work together and rate their group members' performance in critical skills like effective communication.

Freeing teachers to do what they do best

Helix allows instructors to work with increased efficiency so they can spend more time connecting with students. Access to data and social tools creates an environment where instructors have the information and opportunity to mentor students and work collaborative to guide learning.

Helix Classroom Program Overview Progress Report Welcome, Paul Settings Logout

PHO 101: Creative use of Shutter Speed in Sports Photography (Discussion)

Discussion Assessment GRADED **B 84%**

Summary Comments
Overall, nice work. Your initial post was very strong and touched on many topics covered in the course material. The replies, however, were unfocused and didn't have the same sense of organization that the initial post did. [Assignment instructions](#)

Content Development	Organization	Style	Grammar & Mechanics
★★★★★ 47/50 ABOVE AVERAGE	★★★★★ 15/20 SATISFACTORY	★★★★★ 16/20 SATISFACTORY	★★★★★ 18/20 ABOVE AVERAGE
How to improve...	How to improve...	How to improve...	How to improve...

Your Answers

Initial Post	Reply 1	Reply 2	Categorize 1	Categorize 2	Categorize 3	Categorize 4
★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	✗ INCORRECT	✓ CORRECT	✓ CORRECT	✗ INCORRECT

Write an initial post based on the following instructions:
Choose a creative use of shutter speed technique used in sports photography, and describe a situation where it can be best applied. Some of techniques include - Blurring the subject or background using slow shutter speed, using a fast shutter speed to freeze the motion, or using a slow shutter speed and panning the camera with the subject.
Provide technical details where appropriate. Support your discussion with outside references.

Your Answer **Above Average**

Freezing The Moment
Freezing is a very common technique. Given a scene with an object that moves at a certain speed, the photographer can capture it with a high shutter speed and freeze the action. A common problem while taking pictures at very high shutter speeds is not enough light in the scene. In order to achieve the best results, I would recommend the following:

- Use the widest aperture
- Use the highest ISO that would provide usable images with acceptable noise
- If ISO & Aperture do not provide satisfactory results, try a shorter focal length
- In certain scenarios, flash can be used to add lights to scene

Solution and Grading Rubric

Score	Criteria
★★★★★ 47/50 ABOVE AVERAGE	Throughout most of the work, content and developing points are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific• Relevant• Appropriate• Compelling• Related• Thorough• Supported by sources (if applicable)• Well-organized Throughout most of the work, critical thinking is demonstrated (when applicable) through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questioning• Analysis• Evaluation

[Return to Classroom](#)

Frequent and Comprehensive Feedback

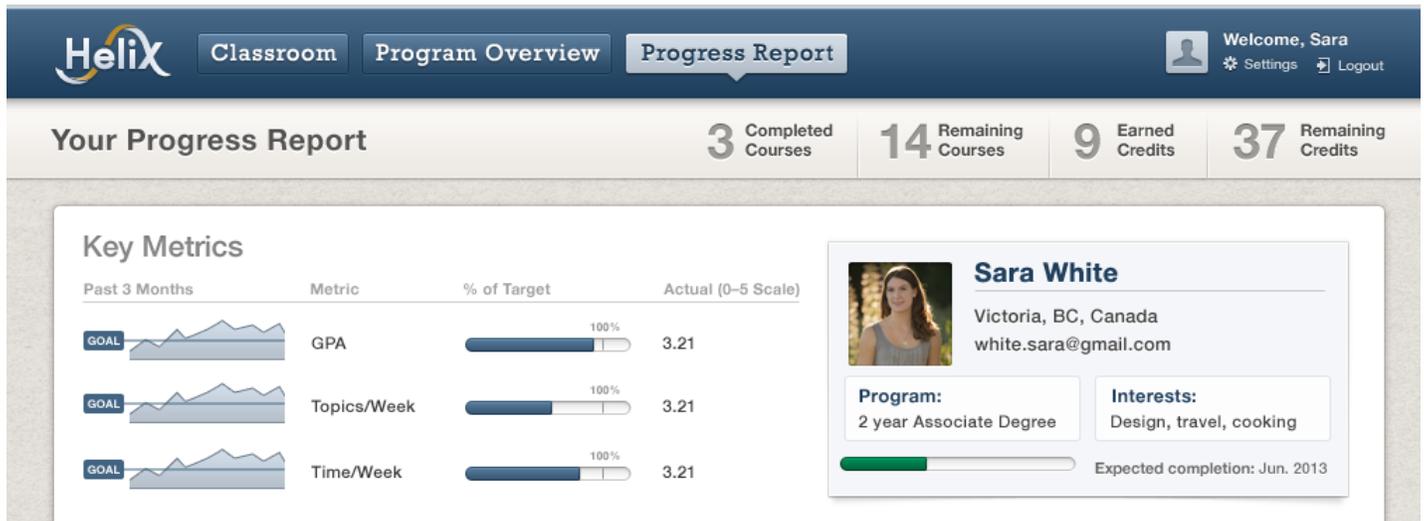
A sophisticated rubric grading system allows teachers to provide detailed and valuable feedback in a time-efficient way, and provides students with actionable goals for improvement.

Creating connections

A robust integrated whiteboarding application allows students and teachers or tutors to have meaningful interactions in real time. This instant access to natural communication is vital to building a learning environment that enables trust and mentorship.

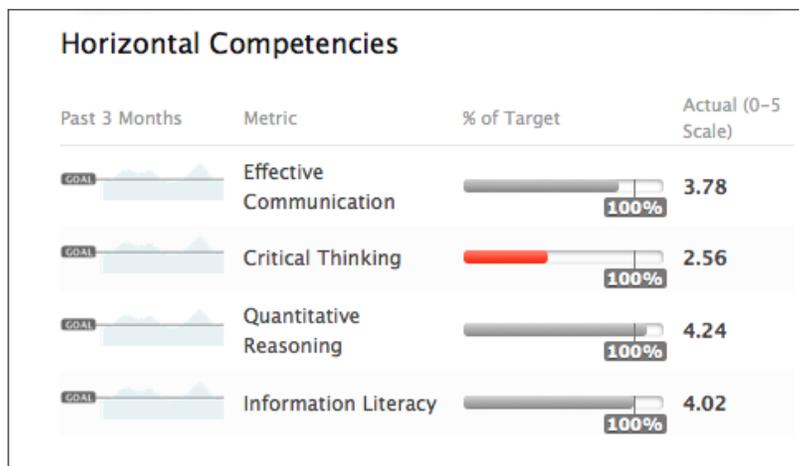
A living education

Helix was built to evolve—every aspect of learning is tracked and communicated so that students, instructors, and the university can use that information to create more effective, efficient, and yes, even fun ways to learn.



Big data means big possibilities

Data about the effectiveness of every piece of content is constantly being collected. This data is aggregated, enabling instructional designers to continually improve the content and learning experience in each class. If students are having difficulty understanding a specific learning object, the institution can revisit the way the content is presented and find other ways to present the lesson so that students are more successful.



Measuring the immeasurable

One of the most vital outcomes of a quality college education is acquiring the “soft skills” like critical thinking and effective communication that help students become valuable contributors to jobs, family, and community. In a traditional university it is virtually impossible to track and score these skills, and many online institutions may not focus on them at all. Helix allows these critical skills, that we call horizontal competencies, to be measured and incorporated throughout every class, bringing them into focus like never before.

Learning widgets

The Helix platform was built to enable evolving instructional design. The system includes a framework of learning widgets that allow instructional designers to quickly and easily develop engaging and effective course content. Helix’s designers are continuously working to add new learning widgets that feature innovative ways to help students master skills and concepts. This is a scalable way to enrich courses and improve learning based on data and student needs.

Be a part of the next step

It's time to make a fundamental change in the way we think about the college experience. We're determined to deliver that change and looking for universities, corporations, and individuals who are ready to join us. If you'd like to collaborate on the next step in Helix's development contact megan.murray@altiused.com to learn more.