bConnected CASE STUDY

The Graduate Student Instructor Teaching & Resource Center

Problem

UC Berkeley has been videotaping OPTs for more than 20 years. Taken by graduate students required to fulfill the mandatory language proficiency screening before they can teach classes, these tests are administered in a classroom setting, and include demonstrating the ability to lead a group discussion, answer student questions, and answer questions from the test administrator. Each test is evaluated in the areas of pronunciation, speech flow, grammar, vocabulary, organization, listening comprehension, and question handling.

Previous Solution

When the practice started, the tests were recorded and stored on VHS tapes. When the technology changed, they were then stored on DVDs, both of which needed to be stored physically on site. Most recently, the videos were stored digitally on the Research Hub. After that service was discontinued, the GSI center needed a storage solution for the videos, which must be saved for two years after they are taped.

Solution

The GSI center turned to Box for storing the video files, which range in number from 150-200 each year. By storing in Box using a SPA, access to the files is restricted to the appropriate staff members. With CalNet protection, the files are archived in a secure environment. At the same time, they are accessible when needed: "I pull the videos up individually if I meet with the students who have taken the test and want feedback on the performance," says Marilyn Seid-Rabinow, Assistant Director for Language Proficiency at the Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Teaching and Resource Center. "We can then watch it together."

Once students pass the OPT, they can apply to be a GSI on the Berkeley campus.

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