



The University of Missouri-Kansas City and Sierra-Cedar Complete Implementation of PeopleSoft Campus Solutions in a Multi-campus Environment



BACKGROUND

The University of Kansas City was founded in 1933, spawned by a city built at the origin of the Oregon and Santa Fe trails. Several existing professional schools subsequently joined the University's College of Arts and Sciences, including the School of Law, the Dental College, College of Pharmacy, and the Conservatory of Music. In 1963, The University of Kansas City became the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), a doctoral, research extensive institution that is part of the University of Missouri System. Today, more than 14,000 students are enrolled in UMKC's 15 schools, colleges, and institutes, attracted in part by the University's academic focus on the health sciences, visual and performing arts, and urban engagement. UMKC connects education with a dynamic city and its people, and connects research with real societal issues.

Industry	Higher Education
Services	Implementation and Portal Integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management • Functional Consulting • Technical Consulting
Application & Modules	PeopleSoft Campus Solutions 8.9 Implementation and Portal Integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus Community • Recruitment/ Admissions • Student Records • Student Financials • Financial Aid
Client Since	2006

CHALLENGES

UMKC needed a new student information system that was stable and supported by the vendor. It sought a state-of-the-art system that would be scalable, allowing for increased web functionality and 24/7 on-line service for its students. With its legacy system, UMKC faced challenges issuing transcripts, calculating tuition, and awarding financial aid to students who completed coursework toward degrees across careers. UMKC wanted a new system that would be campus centric, yet connected with all of the University of Missouri (UM) campuses. UMKC envisioned addressing all of these needs as part of the UM System-wide initiative to replace legacy systems with the PeopleSoft Campus Solutions software. When this initiative first got underway, all four UM System universities (Missouri S&T, UM St. Louis, UM Columbia, and UM Kansas City) were on a highly modified single instance of Campus Solutions, which evolved over time into separate instances for each campus. UM System resources provided support for development, security, and database administration.

SOLUTION

The kickoff for the project occurred in January, 2006, and by October 1, 2006, UMKC had created a single instance database. On May 27, 2007, PeopleSoft 8.9 became the official system of record. Sierra-Cedar provided full-time onsite functional consulting to assist in implementing Financial Aid, Student Records and Student Financials modules and business processes. We also provided onsite technical consulting, supplemented by part-time, remote technical consulting, to help UMKC with its data conversion and development of custom reports, modifications, and interfaces. Sierra-Cedar consultants reverse-engineered the "as is" environment in order to implement a vanilla "to be," when feasible, and also took advantage of PeopleSoft functionality. They worked with UMKC business area experts to design new business processes and with the UM System to create,

develop and test modifications across institutions. The onsite technical consultants collaborated with UM System developers to document and communicate development activities and provide knowledge transfer to UMKC technical resources.

Sierra-Cedar provided UMKC with a team of experienced consultants that took the time to understand our campus business processes and the functionality we needed from the new student system. Working alongside our project leads, Sierra-Cedar's knowledge of PeopleSoft helped pave the way for a successful implementation at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Doug Swink
Registrar and Project Lead

SOLUTION

UMKC achieved some notable results and benefits within the multi-campus structure while focusing on campus success. As a result of this project, more communication is occurring among administrative areas as well as academic departments across campus. The revisions to academic structure and department organizational structure have streamlined accounting and reporting. The transfer of knowledge by Sierra-Cedar consultants to key UMKC technical resources has improved the level of support to students, faculty, and staff.

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