



Salem State College
Salem, MA
www.salemstate.edu

Industry:

Education & Research

Annual Revenue:

US\$115 million

Employees:

1,380

Oracle Products & Services:

Oracle SOA Suite
Oracle BPEL Process Manager
Oracle Enterprise Service Bus
Oracle Web Services Manager
Oracle Application Server
PeopleSoft Enterprise Financial Management
PeopleSoft Enterprise Portal
PeopleSoft Enterprise Student Administration
Oracle Warehouse Builder

Oracle Partner:

Exeter Group, Inc.
www.exeter.com

“As a smaller IT shop, we lack the manpower to overcome substantial platform changes in a short time frame. By working with Oracle to plan ahead and make strategic IT decisions, such as the move to SOA, we can keep pace with the changes necessary to effectively manage our application services.”

– Charles Walla, MIS Director,
Salem State College

Salem State College Leverages SOA Tools to Simplify Application Development and Maintenance

Salem State College is a comprehensive, publicly supported institution of higher learning located 21 miles north of Boston. Salem State is committed to teaching, research, and scholarship to foster the intellectual, aesthetic, and personal development of its students, faculty, and staff. Founded in 1854, Salem State educates more than 10,000 enrolled students, including 6,000 continuing education students, each year.

Challenges

- Simplify IT systems, which had grown to include customizations that sometimes numbered more than 500
- Improve integration between applications
- Future-proof investments by putting the college on the path to Oracle’s Fusion applications
- Empower the small IT team to keep pace with upgrades

Solution

- Worked with Exeter Group to implement Oracle SOA Suite and Oracle Application Server to simplify the IT infrastructure by enabling application building outside of the core Oracle PeopleSoft Enterprise application environment
- Reduced the number of necessary customizations and eliminated the need to make customizations with each upgrade
- Improved application integration with SOAP guidelines
- Leveraged SOA to create an online application process for the continuing education program, allowing community members to set up accounts and register for courses like students
- Enabled the rapid creation of other customized Web applications—without disrupting the system upgrade—such as a graduate school online application process
- Gained a “head start” on the move to Oracle Fusion by completing half of the upgrade with the infrastructure upgrade, and supporting the next step—the application upgrade
- Ensured faster, more cost-effective upgrades by eliminating customizations that previously took as many as four months
- Standardized IT systems on Oracle, reducing the number of vendor relationships the IT team has to manage
- Helped the small IT team plan ahead to minimize the effort and resources necessary to keep up with product upgrades