Overview of Models of Distance Education

Illinois Virtual Campus

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Overview of Models

- Correspondence Course Materials and examinations are exchanged through postal mail
- Online Course Completely online classroom, no face to face meetings
- Hybrid Course Integrates the Web into the face to face class
- Open entry, Open Exit students enroll in the program at any point and proceed at their own pace

"Correspondence Course" Model



Course handouts, exams, homework, textbook sent through mail

Characteristics of "Correspondence Courses"

- True form of distance education
- Provides flexibility to adult students
- Requires self study

Faculty Role in "Correspondence Course"

- Sending handouts and exams
- Grading exams
- Answering any questions that arise through mail
- Assigning a grade
- No actual teaching

Opportunities for Interaction with "Correspondence Course"

- Students can ask questions through mail, perhaps by phone
- No student-student interaction

Technologies Used

- Mail
- Perhaps phone
- Perhaps email

The "Online Course" model

Web Resources		Onli		ne Tests & Quizzes		
	Discussion Forum:					
Offline	Instructor ⇒ Class Instructor ⇔ Stu Student ⇔ Stu Student ⇔ Class		ss Ident(s) Ident(s) SS	s dent(s) dent(s) s		
Individual Textbook, CD-Roms,	Study: Labs, etc.			Homewor Collabor Projects	rk, Papers, ative	

Alternate View of "Online Course" model



Characteristics of "Online Course" model

- Asynchronous discussion is central, or important to the course
- Traditional resources such as textbooks, labs are part of online courses

Faculty Role in the "Online Course" model

- Learn many new skills different from those used in the traditional classroom setting
- Faculty are facilitators, not lecturers
- Fewer and shorter lectures
- Teaching time is increased
- Planning time is increased

Students' Experience in the "Online Course" model

- Students can attend class and study any time and from any place.
- Students spend more time reading, thinking and writing than in many face to face courses
- Students work through content as a group. No one works ahead.

Technologies used in the "Online Course" model

- Usually a Course Management System to deliver and manage the course.
- Synchronous chat
- Sometimes Web pages
- E-mail

Opportunities for Interaction in the "Online Course" model

- Using asynchronous discussion students interact with other students, the instructor and with the entire class
- Using synchronous discussion (chat) students can communicate about specific topics.
- Overall, INTERACTION INCREASES

The "Hybrid Course" model

Web Resources		Online quizzes, homework		
Lect	ure:			
Offline Individual Study – Textbooks, CDs, Labs		ASS A di	synchronous scussion	

Characteristics of "Hybrid Course" model

- Lectures are at the center, but may be reduced
- May use course management system or Web resources
- Asynchronous discussion may be used, but is not the center of the course

Faculty Role/Experience – Hybrid Course

- Faculty are lecturers and content experts
- Create Web pages or other resources for student use
- Learn some new skills that are integrated into traditional teaching

Students' Experience – Hybrid Course

- Most content is delivered by lecture
- Syllabus, other information may be available on Web pages
- Web-based activities are an optional part of the course
- A good model for students on the campus
 Web pages

Technologies – Hybrid Course

- Web resources and external readings
- May use course management system with asynchronous discussion as a supplement to lecture

Opportunities for Interaction – Hybrid Course

- Limited interaction during and after lecture
- Interaction during office hours
- Asynchronous discussion is usually auxiliary to the course
- Interaction is often LESS than online courses



Characteristics of "Open Entry, Open Exit" model

- Students move at their own pace
- Students do not interact with each other, only with the instructor
- Asynchronous discussion is not used

Faculty Role in "Open Entry, Open Exit"

- Faculty role is to manage students as they move through the material
- Faculty member manages materials that students use to learn (CDs, textbooks, and others)
- Almost no new skills are needed

Students' Experience in "Open Entry, Open Exit" model

- Students work alone
- Students work at their own pace
- Students must be highly motivated
- A good model for students who work full time and travel

Technologies used in "Open Entry, Open Exit" model

- CDs
- Web Pages
- Tutorials
- Textbooks
- Online Quizzing and Testing

Opportunities for Interaction in the "Open Entry, Open Exit"

- Student can contact the instructor by email, telephone
- No student-student interaction