

Challenges of Graduate Education at a Distance

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What is Graduate Education at a Distance?



- Off-campus
 - Centers
 - Contract
- Correspondence
- Online 100%
- Online Hybrid/Blended



Prevalence

- 65% of schools offering graduate face-to-face (F2F) courses also offer graduate courses online
- Among all schools offering F2F Master's degree programs, 44% also offer Master's programs online



Prevalence

- Among all schools offering F2F Business degree programs, 43% also offer online Business programs.
- The overall percent of schools identifying online education as a critical long-term strategy grew from 49% in 2003 to 56% in 2005.

U.S. News Largest degree-granting online programs



School	Students enrolled
University of Phoenix	115,794
Park University	40,000
St. Leo University	40,000
University of Maryland--University College	37,329
Central Texas College	22,090
San Antonio College	19,000
SUNY--Empire State College	18,700
Baker College--Flint	15,248
University of Florida	14,276
Walden University	13,553
Washington State University	13,292
East Carolina University	12,578
Pennsylvania State University--University Park	12,000
Community College of Southern Nevada	10,583
Kaplan University	10,029
University of Colorado--Denver	9,372
Rochester Institute of Technology	8,630
Anne Arundel Community College	7,896
Broward Community College	7,157
University of South Alabama	6,977

Note: The data in this directory were collected in summer and fall of 2005, in reference to the 2004-2005 academic year.

Growth



- The online enrollment growth rate is over 10 times that projected by the National Center for Education Statistics for the general post-secondary student population.
- Overall online enrollment increased from 1.98 million in 2003 to 2.35 million in 2004, an overall annual growth rate of 18.2%.

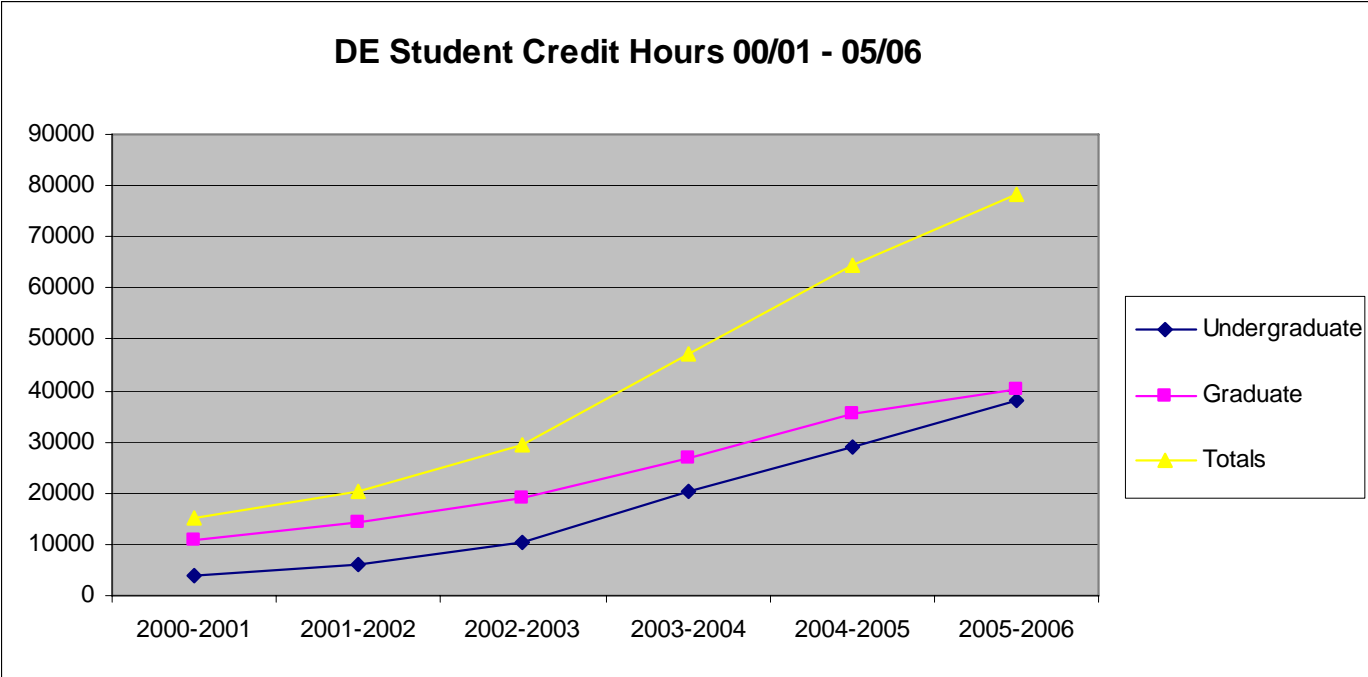
Growth @ Longwood



- Overall revenue from \$40 per credit hour fee more than doubled from 2004-05 to 2005-06, from \$61,320 to \$143,040 with credit hours increasing from 1,538 to 3,601.
- Graduate revenue and credit hours generated tripled during that same period from \$13,280 to \$39,240, from 332 to 996 credit hours.



Growth at East Carolina University



	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
<i>Undergraduate</i>	4107	5984	10243	20190	29052	38148
<i>Graduate</i>	11033	14182	19190	26964	35618	40283
<i>Totals</i>	15140	20166	29433	47154	64670	78431

Who is Teaching Online?



- 65% of higher education institutions report using primarily core faculty to teach online courses compared to 62% that report using primarily core faculty to teach F2F courses.
- 74% of Public colleges report their online courses are taught by core faculty, as opposed to only 61% of the F2F courses.

Who is Teaching Online?



- Except for the largest schools (15,000+ enrollment), all sized schools report an equal or greater rate of online courses being taught primarily by core faculty compared to their F2F courses.

Quality of Online Learning



- 75% of academic leaders at public colleges and universities believe that online learning quality equals or surpasses F2F instruction.
- The larger the school, the more positive the believe in the quality of online learning compared to F2F learning.

Quality of Online Learning



- More than 66% of survey respondents saw no difference between an online and a traditional graduate degree in terms of academic quality, starting salary after graduation, and quality of job after graduation.



Challenges to Online Learning

- Challenges at your university/college?
- Barriers to be overcome?
- Attitudes?
- University cultural values?
- Policies?
- Expectations?
- Myths and stories?

Your Challenges



Challenges



- About one-third of e-learning at U.S. graduate schools is accredited by professional bodies.
 - All but 2 online Library Science programs are accredited by the ALA. All but 1 of the 73 online nursing programs are accredited by the NLNAAC or the CCNE. Half of the 114 online MBA programs are accredited by AACSB yet these represent only 13% of the online MBA population. 87% of online MBA candidates are in programs not accredited by the AACSB.
- Some programs have relatively high per-class student limits and some have no limits on enrollment.
- Outdated promotion and tenure policies have no reward for creating online courses.
- Faculty knowledge of instructional design, media and technology may be limited.



Challenges

- Faculty support (financial, technological, training, course assistants, library, student support services, course development time, etc.) may not be available for online instruction.
- Strategic planning to identify and reach long-term online instructional goals is lacking.
- Chairs are not trained to evaluate online instruction and learning.

Online Administrative Models



- Independent Continuing Education
 - Contract faculty outside regular workload
 - Self-supporting (tuition & fees)
- Academic Division
 - Treated as any other class
- Academic Division
 - Partially or wholly self-supporting (fees only)
 - Within & outside regular workload depending upon regular, summer or intersession terms

Faculty Support Models



- No formal institutional support
 - Courses developed and offered independently
 - Blended/Hybrid courses
- Voluntary workshops on specific topics
 - No formal training required to teach online
 - Little or no instructional design or technical support

Faculty Support Models



- Required training in online instruction
 - Instructional design and technical support provided
 - Faculty stipend for course development and training
- Central development team
 - Faculty is Subject Matter Expert (SME)
 - Instructional designer and technician provide structure and do the actual course design and production

Facilitating Online Learning



- Facilitators for developing, encouraging online learning at your University/College?
- First three things you will do to initiate change?
- What do you need to know to get started or to move forward? (Do you know what you don't know?)
- Which Online Administrative Model and Faculty Support Model fit your situation?

Your Plans?

