Distance Education at Postsecondary Institutions in 2006-07

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This presentation is intended to promote the exchange of ideas among researchers and policy makers. The views expressed in it are part of ongoing research and analysis and do not necessarily reflect the position of the U.S. Department of Education.
Postsecondary Education Quick Information System (PEQIS)

- NCES established PEQIS in 1991.

- PEQIS surveys collect data from postsecondary institutions or state higher education agencies.

- Surveys typically include 3 pages of questions, with a response burden averaging between 30-45 minutes per respondent.

- Recent surveys have focused on distance education; technology in teacher education; students with disabilities; dual-enrollment; and campus crime.
PEQIS - continued

- Most PEQIS surveys rely on a previously recruited, nationally representative panel of institutions.
  - Panel last updated in 2006.
  - Each institution on the panel is asked to provide a survey coordinator.

- The PEQIS panel is constructed from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Systems (IPEDS) Institutional characteristics file.
  - The panel includes 2-year and 4-year (including graduate-level) institutions that are Title IV eligible and degree-granting.
PEQIS surveys on distance education

- Four PEQIS surveys on distance education:
  - 1994-95; 1997-98; 2000-01; and 2006-07

- Evolving nature of distance education makes survey development difficult, especially for establishing trend data.
  - The 2006-07 definition of distance education was:
    - A formal education process in which the student and instructor are not in the same place. Thus, instruction may be synchronous or asynchronous, and it may involve communication through the use of video, audio, or computer technologies, or by correspondence (which may include both written correspondence and the use of technology such as CD-ROM)
  - Two key differences in the 2006-07 definition from previous definitions make comparisons not possible:
    - (1) No longer a criterion for instructional delivery to off-campus or remote locations because online courses could be accessed on campus at a convenient time and place.
    - (2) Included correspondence courses and distance education courses that were designated by institutions as hybrid/blended online courses.
PEQIS surveys on distance education

• 2006-07 survey focused on three types of distance education:
  – **Online**: Referred to the courses that institutions formally designated as online, but exclude those courses designated as hybrid/blended online. Further, institutions could vary in the proportion of online instruction required for a course to be designated as online.

  – **Hybrid/blended online**: Referred to a combination of online and in-class instruction with reduced in-class seat time. This excludes web-enhanced courses that do not reduce in-class seat time.

  – **Other distance education**: Referred to courses apart from those designated as online or hybrid/blended online.
2006-07 PEQIS distance education survey

• Information collected included:
  – Whether institutions offered various types of distance education courses, and enrollment in those courses, including online, hybrid/blended online, and other distance education courses;
  – Number and types of degree or certificate programs designed to be completed totally through distance education;
  – Technologies used for the instructional delivery of distance education courses;
  – Factors affecting institutions’ decisions about distance education;
  – Distance education offerings for elementary/secondary students; and
  – Ways in which institutions acquired or developed their distance education courses.
Summary of findings from the 2006-07 PEQIS survey on distance education


- The use of “postsecondary institutions” in the following slide titles reflect 2-year and 4-year Title IV degree-granting postsecondary institutions.

- Where applicable the following slides present data specific to 4-year institutions offering graduate or first-professional programs. In so doing, for those slides there are no applicable data to report from 2-year institutions.
Prevalence of and enrollments in distance education
Percent of all postsecondary institutions that offered any online, hybrid/blended online, or other distance education courses: 2006-07

Percent of postsecondary institutions that offered college-level credit-granting online, hybrid/online, or other distance education courses: 2006-07


‡ Data on graduate/first-professional courses for private for-profit 4-year institutions did not meet reporting standards.
Percent of postsecondary institutions that offered college-level credit-granting **online** distance education courses: 2006-07

![Bar chart showing the percent of postsecondary institutions that offered college-level credit-granting online distance education courses by type of institution and level of study for the years 2006-07.](chart_image)

- **Courses at either level (of all institutions):**
  - All institutions: 61%
  - Private not-for-profit 4-year institutions: 48%
  - Private for-profit 4-year institutions: 52%

- **Undergraduate courses (of institutions with undergraduate programs):**
  - All institutions: 62%
  - Private not-for-profit 4-year institutions: 47%
  - Private for-profit 4-year institutions: 52%

- **Graduate/first-professional courses (of institutions with graduate or first-professional programs):**
  - All institutions: 52%
  - Private not-for-profit 4-year institutions: 41%
  - Private for-profit 4-year institutions: †


† Data on graduate/first-professional courses for private for-profit 4-year institutions did not meet reporting standards.
Percent of postsecondary institutions that offered college-level credit-granting hybrid/blended online distance education courses: 2006-07

Hybrid/blended online distance education courses

- All institutions
- Private not-for-profit 4-year institutions
- Public 4-year institutions
- Private for-profit 4-year institutions


‡ Data on graduate/first-professional courses for private for-profit 4-year institutions did not meet reporting standards.
Percent of postsecondary institutions that offered **other types** of college-level credit-granting distance education courses: 2006-07


‡ Data on graduate/first-professional courses for private for-profit 4-year institutions did not meet reporting standards.
Percent of total college-level credit-granting distance education enrollments that were 
**online** enrollments: 2006-07

![Bar chart showing the percent of online enrollments across different types of courses and institutional types for 2006-07.](chart.png)

Percent of total college-level credit-granting distance education enrollments that were **hybrid/blended online** enrollments: 2006-07

Percent of total college-level credit-granting distance education enrollments that were other types of distance education enrollments: 2006-07

Other types of distance education enrollments

Criteria institutions used to designate courses as online and distance education online programs
Percent of postsecondary institutions offering online courses that reported the minimum amount of online instruction required to designate courses as **online**: 2006-07


There were too few private for-profit 4-year institutions that offered online courses in 2006-07 to make reliable estimates.
Percent of postsecondary institutions that offered **college-level degree programs** designed to be completed totally through distance education: 2006-07

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree programs</th>
<th>All institutions</th>
<th>Private not-for-profit 4-year institutions</th>
<th>Public 4-year institutions</th>
<th>Private for-profit 4-year institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree programs at either level (all institutions)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate degree programs (of institutions with undergraduate programs)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate/first-professional degree programs (of institutions with graduate or first-professional programs)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


‡ Data on graduate/first-professional degree programs for private for-profit 4-year institutions did not meet reporting standards.
Percent of postsecondary institutions that offered **certificate programs** designed to be completed totally through distance education: 2006-07


‡ Data on undergraduate and graduate/first-professional certificate programs for private for-profit 4-year institutions did not meet reporting standards.
Technologies used to deliver distance education; factors affecting distance education offerings; and the means for acquiring or developing distance education courses.
Percent of postsecondary institutions offering any college-level credit-granting distance education courses that reported the extent to which (moderate or large) various technologies or medium were used for instruction: 2006-07

Percent of postsecondary institutions offering any college-level credit-granting distance education courses that reported the extent to which (moderate or large) various factors affected decisions regarding distance education offerings: 2006-07

Factors affecting decisions

Percent of postsecondary institutions offering any college-level credit-granting distance education courses that indicated the ways in which credit-granting distance education courses were acquired or developed: 2006-07

Means for acquiring or developing distance education courses

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