Open Campus: Extending access through Distance Education

Facilitating Distance Education for RCCD students and faculty since 1998
Did you know....

- Over 6.7 million students were taking at least one online course during the fall 2011 term, an increase of 570,000 students over the previous year. (Allan, E.I. & J. Seaman (2013), Changing Course: Ten years of tracking online education in the United States)
- Thirty-two percent of higher education students now take at least one course online.
- Twenty-nine percent of RCCD students took at least one online class in fall 2011.
• **National & Federal Attention to DE**
  ◦ More institutions are offering DE courses, programs and degrees
  ◦ Continued growth in online student enrollments
  ◦ Limits on federal aid for DE students changed in 2008

• **More interest means more regulations and increased accountability**
  ◦ Integrity: Student Authentication
  ◦ Accreditation: Quality reviews, assurances
  ◦ Financial Aid Fraud: Preventing or minimizing fraud

**With Growth comes Interest & Regulations & Accountability**
This presentation will provide information about:

- Accreditation quality standards and reviews
- Federal regulations
- Emerging issues in DE
Chapter 6

Curriculum and Instruction

Standards and Criteria for Courses

- 55200. Definition and Application
- 55202. Course Quality Standards
- 55204. Instructor Contact
- 55206. Separate Course Approval
- 55208. Faculty Selection and Workload
- 55210. Ongoing Responsibility of Districts
Distance education means instruction in which the instructor and student are separated by distance and interact through the assistance of communication technology. All distance education is subject to the general requirements of this chapter as well as the specific requirements of this article. In addition, instruction provided as distance education is subject to the requirements that may be imposed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. §12100 et seq.) and section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, (29 U.S.C. §794d).
The same standards of course quality shall be applied to any portion of a course conducted through distance education as are applied to traditional classroom courses, in regard to the course quality judgment made pursuant to the requirements of section 55002, and in regard to any local course quality determination or review process. Determinations and judgments about the quality of distance education under the course quality standards shall be made with the full involvement of faculty in accordance with the provisions of subchapter 2 (commencing with section 53200) of chapter 2.
In addition to 55002, any locally established requirements applicable to all courses, district governing boards shall ensure that:

(a) Any portion of a course conducted through distance education includes regular effective contact between instructor and students, through group or individual meetings, orientation and review sessions, supplemental seminar or study sessions, field trips, library workshops, telephone contact, correspondence, voice mail, e-mail, or other activities. Regular effective contact is an academic and professional matter pursuant to sections 53200 et seq.

(b) Any portion of a course provided through distance education is conducted consistent with guidelines issued by the Chancellor pursuant to section 409 of the Procedures and Standing Orders of the Board of Governors.
If any portion of the instruction in a proposed or existing course or course section is designed to be provided through distance education in lieu of face-to-face interaction between instructor and student, the course shall be separately reviewed and approved according to the district's adopted course approval procedures.
Chapter 9

- For information on Attendance and Fiscal Support Refer to the following subsections:
  - 58003.1 Full-time Equivalent Student; Computation
  - 58006 Application of Actual Student Contact Hours of Attendance Procedure
  - 58007 Noncredit Courses
  - 58009 Application of Alternative Attendance Procedure
  - 58051 Method for Computing Full-Time Equivalent Student (FTES)
  - 58056 Immediate Supervision and Control

Fiscal Support
The Commission’s perspective...

- Fundamental Question - what is the mode?
- Is it distance education?
- Is it correspondence education?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance Ed</th>
<th>Correspondence Ed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Students are separated from instructor</td>
<td>Students are separated from instructor</td>
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<td>Regular and substantive interaction between students and instructor</td>
<td>Instructional materials provided by mail or electronically</td>
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<tr>
<td>May use Internet, one- or two-way transmissions, audio/visual conferencing, DVDs or CD-ROMs</td>
<td>Limited interaction between students and faculty and primarily initiated by students</td>
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<td>Typically self-paced course</td>
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Is the instruction offered:

- CE or the electronic equivalent of independent study of paperwork and reading, or
- DE which requires and does involve regular and substantive interaction with the instructor, initiated by the instructor, with effective student engagement and assignments/activities all of which are included in the grade.
Assuring Quality of DE

- Compatibility and integration with institutional mission
- Policies that dictate satisfactory progress
- Growth over time (number of courses, faculty teaching and students enrolled)
- Policy that defines “regular and substantive contact”
- Required qualifications, training, evaluation and professional development for DE faculty
- Increased student expectations for course delivery and services
Where’s the evidence?
- Student achievement data
- Student learning outcomes compared to face-to-face classes
- Student authentication
- Integrity (course content, grading, faculty teaching capability, student learning, faculty and student support, assessment systems)
- Accessibility
Quality of DE Courses

What is required

- Verification of student identity
- Verification the student enrolled in the class is the one completing it
- Student achievement data in DE and face-to-face classes

What we have

- Student authentication at log in
- Plagiarism software
- Respondus LockDown Browser
- Proctored on-campus tests
- Bb that tracks student and faculty activity
- Open Campus Fact Book
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is required</th>
<th>What we do</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Integrity</td>
<td>• Curriculum Committee – separate approval for DE courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>◦ Course content</td>
<td>◦ Blackboard Academy training</td>
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<td>◦ Grading</td>
<td>◦ Online Skills Workshop &amp; Student readiness survey</td>
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<td>◦ Faculty teaching capability</td>
<td>◦ Student evaluation/feedback survey done every other major term</td>
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<td>◦ Student learning capacity</td>
<td>◦ Resources and tutorials on OC website for faculty and students</td>
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<td>◦ Faculty &amp; student support</td>
<td>◦ 24/7 Online Support Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>◦ Assessment systems</td>
<td>◦ Online counseling and tutoring availability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◦ Integration with institutional mission</td>
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</table>
Suzie, this is math, not the law.

95% of 89 = It Depends

Last Date of Attendance
Financial Aid 101

LDA

- LDA is the date an institution is expected to use to calculate the amount of Title IV refund that is due when a student withdraws from a program.
- The later the LDA, the less the refund.

Last Date of Attendance
Emerging Issue

- Traditionally, the LDA in online courses is based on the last day a student “entered” a secure classroom site.
- The DoE has taken the position that the LDA is more than “attendance” or logging into the student’s virtual classroom and requires evidence of “academic engagement” through discussion board posts, completed assignments, regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty.
- Faculty must note the last day a student “actively” participated in the class.

LDA Implications for DE
The U.S. Department of Education (U.S. DoE) released new regulations regarding distance education in October 2010. One of the new regulations focuses on the need for institutions offering DE to acquire authorization from any state where the institution has currently enrolled students.
• RCCD has been in the process of seeking approvals from all states. A growing number of states are requiring fees for this authorization which we cannot pass on to students.
• In cases where RCCD students are affected by this change, RCCD will provide assistance to students to resolve this matter.
• The new regulations will take effect in July 2014.
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Have questions? Need help?