Distance Learning Strategic Plan
establishing Virtual UWF

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Virtual UWF

UWF’s Strategic Plan for Distance Learning

Vision

"Educational Excellence: Anytime...Anyplace" is our commitment for Distance Learning at the University of West Florida. With students as our highest priority, we are dedicated to the improvement of mind and spirit through the creation, application, and dissemination of knowledge in a personalized environment. Through high-quality curricular offerings, student support, and a faculty committed to learning and achievement, we will be able to provide education on-demand using distance and distributed learning technologies to meet the needs of our diverse, non-traditional student population and to prepare them as active, life-long learners in the 21st century.

Mission

To achieve the vision of Distance Learning at UWF, we propose the establishment of Virtual UWF. Virtual UWF will provide institution-wide administrative and instructional support for programs, courses, and workshop offerings that are distributed as web-based courses, web-enhanced courses, and in the Interactive Distance Learning Studio for distance learning faculty, students, and the communities that we serve. During the next five years, it is proposed that Virtual UWF will facilitate the following UWF Strategic Goals:

Goals for Virtual UWF:

- Establish Virtual UWF
- Promote economic development through the design and delivery of niche programs, courses, and professional development.
- Increase enrollment at UWF with both degree seeking and non-degree seeking students
- Offer more courses at remote locations across the UWF service area [and beyond]
- Increase course offerings at the Ft. Walton Beach Campus
- Facilitate the classroom space issue by offering web-enhanced courses, thus reducing the amount of in-class time and increasing the “distributed” class time via the web, CD-ROM or other instructional medium.

Objectives

1. Establish the organizational structure for distance learning on the campus.
2. Identify target market opportunities for distance learning courses, programs, and workshops congruent with academic strengths.
3. Prioritize identified market opportunity programs on a yearly basis for design, development, and implementation in collaboration with instructional development teams.
5. Provide a long-range training schedule for faculty to design, develop, implement, and evaluate distance courses and programs.
6. Design, develop, and implement distance learning courses, programs, and non-credit generating Institutes and workshops.
7. Provide student support to all students in distance courses or programs.
8. Provide strong library services and remote opportunities to students at distance locations.
9. Maintain strong infrastructure support for the Interactive Distance Learning Classrooms and all web delivery.
10. Adopt a continuous improvement model to adapt, revise, and re-identify opportunities for high-quality distance courses, programs, and workshops.
11. Promote the Virtual UWF through a highly visible marketing campaign.

Five Area Implementation Strategy

1. Student Support
2. Faculty Support
3. Training
4. Infrastructure
5. Instructional Design Support

Supporting Partners for Virtual UWF

1. ITS
2. The Library
3. Student Support Services
4. The Teaching Center
5. Office of Sponsored Research and Graduate Studies

Implementation Plan

Year 1: 99-00

Form Distance Learning Task Force
Establish Strategic Plan for Distance Learning
Implement Virtual UWF
Establish an Executive and Advisory Committee for Distance Learning
Develop 2 programs via distance learning
Market programs

Year 2: 00-01

Establish Virtual UWF website
Form Advisory Council
Form Executive Council
Establish Training Plans
Identify 2 programs for development
Identify 10 web-enhanced courses
Identify 1 non-credit generating Institute for DL
Establish Policy on Intellectual Property for DL
Establish Policy for recalculating load for DL courses

Year 3: 01-02

Plan quarterly meetings for DL Team
Develop 2 distance programs
Develop 10 web-enhanced courses
Develop student support materials
Develop online student support website
Conduct training
Market a total of 4 programs for DL
Develop 1 non-credit generating Institute
Maintain Virtual UWF Website