Distributed Learning – Distance Education

Distributed learning
A model in which the instructor, students and content can all be located in different, non-centralized locations, so learning can occur independent of place and time.

What questions to ask when building a distance education section

- Who will be registering in the class?
  - Who are the students that will be taking this class?

- Where will the student be when they are receiving instruction?
  - Are they at an alternate campus and the feed will be streamed to them?
  - Will they be at a personal computer and can log on at their own leisure?
  - Will the student be required to log onto an online service at a particular time?

- When will the students receive instruction?
  - Will the students be required to log onto the course at a certain time? Making the section have times associated with it?

- How will the student be receiving instruction?
  - Will the instructor be emailing the students their assignments and requesting them to submit their work electronically?
  - Will the instructor post requirements in an online course tool such as Blackboard?
  - Will the instructor require face to face meetings with their students? If so, how often?

Examples

1. The student will be located at the TTU main campus but the instructor is in Houston and they will be broadcasting the course material back to the student. How should this section be built?
   a. This section should be built with a campus code of TLB, since this is where the students are located, and an instructional method of ITV, since the class will be fed live to the students.

2. Now the instructor mentioned in Example One will also have students attending the course in Houston, can they be enrolled in the same section?
   a. No – these students will need to be enrolled in a section that carries a campus code of TUD (Other Texas) and an instructional method of face to face, since the students will be in the same location as the instructor.

3. I have no idea where the student is located but all instruction will take place online but the course requires the student to log on at a certain time and participate in class discussions. How should this section be built?
   a. This section should be built with a campus code of TDE, since all instruction will take place online, and the instructional method should be multi, since the students will be required to log on during a certain time and participate in synchronous activity and also post and submit assignments via email or a course management tool.

The Coordinating Board Definitions

- Distance Education--The formal educational process that occurs when students and instructors are not in the same physical setting for the majority (more than 50 percent) of instruction.
- Distance Education Course--A course in which a majority (more than 50 percent) of the instruction occurs when the student(s) and instructor(s) are not in the same place. Two categories of distance education courses are defined:
  - Fully Distance Education Course--A course which may have mandatory face-to-face sessions totaling no more than 15 percent of the instructional time. Examples of face-to-face sessions include orientation, laboratory, exam review, or an in-person test.
  - Hybrid/Blended Course--A course in which a majority (more than 50 percent but less than 85 percent), of the planned instruction occurs when the students and instructor(s) are not in the same place.

Why is the campus code important?

Student fees are assessed by the campus code and in order for the student to not have all of the fees associated with the main campus (TLB) they must register for a section that is coded with an alternate location or campus code.