

Profile of Distance Learning at Dalton State College 2011-2012



1. Overview of The Office of Instructional Technology

The Office of Instructional Technology makes higher education a possibility for those who face obstacles to taking technical and undergraduate courses in a traditional face-to-face classroom setting. We seek to extend the ability to earn credit toward a degree or certification program to those whose life circumstances, such as work, family, or distance, make attending face-to-face traditional classes impractical. Through distance learning, students can attend class whenever and wherever is convenient to them just with the use of an internet connection. Since distance learning courses have learning outcomes equivalent to traditional courses, students taking DL courses earn the same amount and level of credit as they would in a face-to-face class.

The development of the Office of Instructional Technology in January 2012 was based on several key supporting factors including increased delivery of online and hybrid courses, recommendations by the Online Planning Committee, the Dalton State College strategic planning process, and the University System of Georgia strategic planning process.

Mission Statement:

The Office of Instructional Technology is a college-wide function at Dalton State which serves to develop and enhance the college's ability to deliver education to students at remote locations, and to meet institutional distance learning goals. Through intercampus sharing of resources, the Office of Instructional Technology facilitates collaboration among schools and departments to deliver quality distance instruction, faculty and student services, and initiatives.

Goals:

Goals and functions of this department mirror the institutional distance learning goals.

- Work with faculty to plan and create distance learning environments that encourage and support excellence in a personal environment, allowing them to focus on teaching rather than technology.
- In collaboration with other campus and state departments, maintain the human and technical resources and network infrastructure necessary to successfully support and deliver distance and distributed learning.
- Ensure that academic and student services are appropriate to meet the needs of distance and distributed learners.
- Conduct continuous evaluation of distance and distributed learning and support services to ensure the advancement of the College's mission and adherence to quality standards.
- Support research, scholarship, and creative endeavors which promote knowledge of distance learning.

Assessment of Goals:

The goals and work of the Office of Instructional Technology are assessed through the use of surveys, evaluations, and data analysis. The Annual Distance Learning Profile (included below) also serves as an important assessment tool. The Distance Education Committee provides guidance and assistance with the functionality of the department.

Reporting Structure:

The Office of Instructional Technology reports to the Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Staffing:

Staffing for is currently comprised of the director position only. This position is currently vacant due to funding issues. Much of the work is being covered with a part time position. As funds become available to the institution through eCore revenue and improved budget, more personnel additions are anticipated.

Services Provided:

- Management of the GeorgiaView Learning Management System
- Instructional Technology
- Course Design, Development, and Delivery
- Technology Training for GeorgiaVIEW
- Technology Training for other instructional tools such as software, hardware, student response systems, etc.

Training:

Continued training and development is a requirement for the personnel of the department. The staff attends regular training and related meetings to help in staying abreast of currently technologies, processes, policies, and procedures. Part of the continuous improvement process includes weekly web conference calls with the other University System of Georgia Blackboard administrators and quarterly RACDE meetings. Additional training includes webinars and onsite training for the future LMS Desire to Learn. Dalton State will be converted to this LMS beginning Spring 2012.

2. Annual Distance Learning Profile

This profile is an interpretive report based on the College's Distance Learning (DL) statistical data. It aims to help Dalton State College evaluate its DL methods of course delivery. DL courses, enrollments, and faculty involvement are all tracked annually, providing ample data with which to understand the strengths, weaknesses, and areas of improvement in DL offerings. This year's report highlights the trends and progress made in 2011-2012.

Key Findings (2011-2012):

- DL course sections, both hybrid and online, decreased slightly from 137 in 2010-2011 to 126 in 2011-2012 which is consistent with the overall institutional drop in enrollment.
- The numbers of both hybrid courses and hybrid enrollments is growing more quickly than the numbers of online courses and online enrollments; hybrid enrollments in 2011-2012 (2164) make up 79% of total DL enrollments (2751).
- The number of students enrolled only in DL courses increased slightly, from 224 in 2010-2011 to 247 in 2011-2012.
- The completion rate for DL courses (90.1%) is slightly lower than the completion rate for traditional courses (91.64%).
- Enrollment in DL courses decreased slightly, 1%, from 2,771 DL enrollments in 2010-2011 to 2751 in 2011-2012, which is consistent with the overall institutional drop in enrollment.
- The number of faculty teaching online courses decreased slightly, from 20 in 2010-2011 to 19 in 2011-2012.
- The number of faculty teaching hybrid courses also decreased slightly, from 63 in 2010-2011 to 58 in 2011-2012.

Table 1.1: 2011-2012 Distance Education Data

2010-2011 Distance Education Data	Fall –	Spring –	Summer –	Total
	2011	2012	2013	
Total Online Sections:	11	8	4	23
Total Online Students:	339	177	71	587
Non-Duplicated Online Headcount:	299	168	69	536
Total Hybrid Sections:	49	40	14	103
Total Hybrid Students:	1037	850	277	2164
Non-Duplicated Hybrid Headcount:	865	724	243	1832
Number of Students Taking Only DL Courses	247			
Completion Rate for DL Courses - 2010	90.10%			
Completion Rate for Traditional Courses - 2010	91.64%			

Table 1.2: 2010-2011 Distance Education Data

2010-2011 Distance Education Data	Fall –	Spring –	Summer –	Total
	2010	2011	2011	
Total Online Sections:	11	13	5	29
Total Online Students:	341	354	101	796
Non-Duplicated Online Headcount:	293	321	99	713
Total Hybrid Sections:	38	60	10	108
Total Hybrid Students:	831	1441	163	2435
Non-Duplicated Hybrid Headcount:	684	1214	160	2058
Number of Students Taking Only DL Courses	224			
Completion Rate for DL Courses - 2010	89.60%			
Completion Rate for Traditional Courses - 2010	90.35%			

Table 2: 2009-2010 Distance Education Data

2009-2010 Distance Education Data	Fall - 2009	Spring - 2010	Summer - 2010	Total
Total Online Sections:	10	13	8	31
Total Online Students:	354	355	179	888
Non-Duplicated Online Headcount:	315	332	168	815
Total Hybrid Sections:	32	42	9	83
Total Hybrid Students:	769	1034	223	2026
Non-Duplicated Hybrid Headcount:	618	893	220	1731
Number of Students Taking Only DL Courses	243			
Completion Rate for DL Courses - 2009	88.60%			
Completion Rate for Traditional Courses - 2009	90.50%			

Table 3: Ten-year Distance Learning Enrollment and Faculty Involvement

Ten-year Distance Learning Enrollment and Faculty Involvement	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Distance Learning Enrollment	-	50	607	1367	799	1869	2546	2771	2368
Faculty Teaching Online Courses:	3	12	8	7	11	21	24	20	19
Faculty Teaching Hybrid Courses:	0	5	12	20	18	38	42	63	58
Online Courses	-	-	-	6	14	29	31	29	23
Hybrid Courses	-	-	-	20	23	64	82	108	103

Semester	Total Courses	Online Courses	Hybrid Courses
Fall 2011	865	11 (1.3%)	49 (5.7%)
Spring 2012	779	9 (1.2%)	40 (5.1%)
Summer 2012	235	4 (1.7%)	14 (6.0%)
Fall 2012	813	14 (1.7%)	41 (5.0%)
Spring 2013	804	15 (1.9%)	42 (5.2%)

Implications:

Dalton State College’s Distance Learning program continues to need an increase of its online offerings, both in hybrid and online courses, to meet the needs of nontraditional DSC students, for whom attending face-to-face traditional classes is impractical. Online and hybrid courses have increased steadily at Dalton State since the first offerings in fall 2003, from 3 online courses and 0 hybrid courses to 23 online courses and 103 hybrid courses. Course selection, enrollment, and faculty involvement in the DL program all continue to increase quickly. This growth is largely in hybrid classes, though online courses are also growing and will likely receive a large boost from our new participation in the eCore program. Currently eCore enrollments remain strong for totally online courses, and these data are not included in the above charts.

It is apparent from the last Table above that outside of eCore enrollments there are few opportunities for Dalton State students to engage in online course work. One possible explanation for this lack of online opportunities comes from the fact that in the past faculty have had inadequate support and motivation to invest themselves in teaching online courses. Another possibility for the current plateau is the upcoming conversion to Desire 2 Learn. A number of faculty have expressed hesitation at developing new courses until the conversion is complete. The Office of Instructional Technology and the Distance Education Committee have been working hard to provide infrastructure and training opportunities. Also, it is hoped that moving forward there will be a tuition differential for online courses. The online course tuition increases will be used to invest in development of new courses and faculty development.

Course outcomes demonstrate the quality of Distance Learning sections. Distance Learning course completion rates continue to match and even slightly exceed traditional course completion rates.

Evidence of Improvement

Dalton State is very fortunate to have a supportive and forward-thinking administration encouraging the growth and development of distance education. This year, through funding and infrastructure changes, the Office of Instructional Technology was developed to improve our distance education program. Software investments such as Wimba and Respondus now allow for better course interaction and delivery. Dalton State also now participates in USG's eCore program, promising to increase the delivery and diversity of DSC's distance learning curriculum. Soon DSC students will have the capability to take more than 50% of the first two years of college completely online. The Distance Education Committee has also worked hard to create infrastructure and support for faculty who desire to teach online or hybrid courses. This infrastructure includes recommendations on "Standard Components for Hybrid and Online Courses" as well as a peer review process for new courses. Dalton State has also contracted with the Educational Technology Center to offer opportunities for faculty training and support.

Appendix I: List of Online & Hybrid Courses Available – Fall 2011

Online	NURS	1112	Pharmacology
Online	HUMN	1201	Expressions of Culture I
Online	ANTH	1103	Intro to Cultural Anthropology
Online	SOCI	1160	Social Problems
Online	SOCI	1101	Introduction to Sociology
Online	CAPS	1140	Microcomputer Operating System
Online	CAPS	1140	Microcomputer Operating System
Online	LPNS	1103	Intro to Nutrition & Diet Ther
Online	NURS	1113	Nutrition
Online	NURS	1107	Medical Terminology
Online	POLS	1101	American Government
Hybrid	ENGL	1101	English Composition I
Hybrid	SPAN	1001	Elementary Spanish I
Hybrid	SPAN	1001	Elementary Spanish I
Hybrid	SPAN	1001	Elementary Spanish I
Hybrid	SPAN	1002	Elementary Spanish II
Hybrid	BIOL	4410K	Molecular Biology

Hybrid	MARK	3010	Principles of Marketing
Hybrid	ENGL	1100	Communication Skills
Hybrid	ENGL	1100	Communication Skills
Hybrid	CHEM	1211K	Principles of Chemistry I
Hybrid	ELCT	1100	PC Maint & Troubleshooting I
Hybrid	ELCT	2100	PC Maint & Troubleshooting II
Hybrid	ELCT	1100	PC Maint & Troubleshooting I
Hybrid	ELCT	2100	PC Maint & Troubleshooting II
Hybrid	EDUC	3214	Expl Act in PE, Art & Music
Hybrid	SOCI	1101	Introduction to Sociology
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	MUSC	1100	Music Appreciation
Hybrid	MUSC	1100	Music Appreciation
Hybrid	GEOL	1121K	Principles of Geology
Hybrid	GEOL	1121K	Principles of Geology
Hybrid	SPAN	1001	Elementary Spanish I
Hybrid	SPAN	1001	Elementary Spanish I
Hybrid	BIOL	1107K	Principles of Biology I
Hybrid	BUSA	3050	Business Statistics
Hybrid	ENGL	1201	Intro to Film as Literature
Hybrid	BIOL	2212K	Anatomy and Physiology I
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	MNGT	3051	Principles of Management
Hybrid	ENGL	1101	English Composition I
Hybrid	ENGL	1102	English Composition II
Hybrid	ENGL	2111	World Literature I
Hybrid	ELCT	1055	Digital Logic Circuits I
Hybrid	ELCT	1005	Direct Current Circuits I
Hybrid	ELCT	1065	Alternating Current Circuits I
Hybrid	ELCT	1085	Semiconductor Dev & Cir I
Hybrid	ELCT	2005	Direct Current Circuits II
Hybrid	ELCT	2065	Alternating Current Cir II
Hybrid	BIOL	2212K	Anatomy and Physiology I
Hybrid	COMM	1110	Fundamentals of Speech
Hybrid	ELCT	2115	Robotics
Hybrid	ELCT	2075	Motors, Drives, and Controls
Hybrid	ELCT	2116	Computer Integr Manuf (CIMS)
Hybrid	ELCT	2040	Programmable Logic Controllers
Hybrid	ELCT	2090	Instrument and Control Systems

Appendix II: List of Online & Hybrid Courses Available – Spring 2012

Online	NURS	1113	Nutrition
Online	POLS	1101	American Government
Online	SOWK	2102	History of Social Welfare
Online	SOCI	1160	Social Problems
Online	NURS	1107	Medical Terminology
Online	LPNS	1103	Intro to Nutrition & Diet Ther
Online	CAPS	1140	Microcomputer Operating System
Online	ELCT	2120	A+ Certification Review
Hybrid	BIOL	1105K	Environmental Studies
Hybrid	BUSA	3050	Business Statistics
Hybrid	BUSA	3351	International Business
Hybrid	BIOL	2213K	Anatomy and Physiology II
Hybrid	MARK	3011	Buyer Behavior & CRM
Hybrid	EDUC	3214	Expl Act in PE, Art & Music
Hybrid	EDUC	3214	Expl Act in PE, Art & Music
Hybrid	COMM	1110	Fundamentals of Speech
Hybrid	BIOL	3340K	General Microbiology
Hybrid	CHEM	1212K	Principles of Chemistry II
Hybrid	SOCI	1101	Introduction to Sociology
Hybrid	SOWK	3504	Seminar in Child Welfare
Hybrid	ENGL	1102	English Composition II
Hybrid	ENGL	2112	World Literature II
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	SPAN	1002	Elementary Spanish II
Hybrid	NURS	2013	Nursing Issues
Hybrid	NURS	2013	Nursing Issues
Hybrid	MUSC	1100	Music Appreciation
Hybrid	ENGL	1201	Intro to Film as Literature
Hybrid	ELCT	1005	Direct Current Circuits I
Hybrid	ELCT	1055	Digital Logic Circuits I
Hybrid	ELCT	1065	Alternating Current Circuits I
Hybrid	ELCT	1085	Semiconductor Dev & Cir I
Hybrid	MATH	1113	Precalculus Mathematics
Hybrid	ELCT	2025	Intro to Microprocessors
Hybrid	ELCT	2040	Programmable Logic Controllers
Hybrid	ELCT	2090	Instrument and Control Systems
Hybrid	ELCT	2115	Robotics
Hybrid	ELCT	2116	Computer Integr Manuf (CIMS)
Hybrid	GRPH	2274	Special Problems in CAD
Hybrid	GRPH	1151	Intro to Computer-Aided Draft
Hybrid	OADM	1220	Office Procedures
Hybrid	OADM	1232	Business Communications
Hybrid	GRPH	2247	Design Processes
Hybrid	GEOL	1121K	Principles of Geology

Appendix III: List of Online & Hybrid Courses Available – Summer 2012

Online	SOCI	1101	Introduction to Sociology
Online	POLS	1101	American Government
Online	NURS	1113	Nutrition
Online	NURS	1113	Nutrition
Hybrid	MUSC	1100	Music Appreciation
Hybrid	SPAN	1001	Elementary Spanish I
Hybrid	ENGL	1102	English Composition II
Hybrid	PSYC	1101	Introduction to Psychology
Hybrid	PSYC	1101	Introduction to Psychology
Hybrid	NURS	3000	Health Assessment
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	CAPS	1101	Introduction to Computers
Hybrid	ELCT	2005	Direct Current Circuits II
Hybrid	ELCT	2065	Alternating Current Cir II
Hybrid	BIOL	1105K	Environmental Studies
Hybrid	MGIS	2201	Fundamentals of Computer Appli
Hybrid	SOWK	3506	Social Work and Health Care
Hybrid	SOWK	3506	Social Work and Health Care