The Status of eLearning at UAS

November, 2011

Introduction

The demand for eLearning at UAS has been steadily increasing since the 2003-2004 academic year, when 16.7% of the registrations were in courses delivered with eLearning. With an average of 2.4% growth each year since then, 38% of courses registrations were delivered with eLearning by 2010-2011. At the Fall 2011 opening, 38% were in courses delivered solely by eLearning; 41% of the registrations were in courses delivered mostly online.

Data source: UA Decision Support Database (DSD), compiled by UAS IE from closing extracts.

Terminology

Prior to Summer 2011, UAS courses were categorized as “distance”, “blended”, or “traditional”. Since Summer 2011, UAS courses have been categorized according to a scale describing ranges of the percentage of delivery that is location-based. The terminology used here is based on the following cross-walk for historical and current courses, and corresponds to descriptions that will be used to facilitate students’ course searches on UAOnline:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Terminology** | **Current Courses** | **Historical Courses** |
| eLearning | 0% location-based (Banner code 0) | Distance (Banner codes X, Y, Z) |
| Blended | 1-20% and 21-50% location-based (Banner codes 1 and 2, respectively) | Blended (Banner code H) |
| Traditional | > 50% location-based (all other Banner codes) | Traditional (all other Banner codes) |

*Source: Catalog & Schedule state-wide Banner work team, 10/27/2011*

Endorsement, Certificate and Degree Programs by Delivery

Of the 103 degree and certificate programs (including pre-majors) offered through UAS, 57 (55%) are currently available with eLearning (24 programs) and blended delivery (33 programs).

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Program** | **eLearning** | **Blended** |
| Occupational Endorsement | 3 | 4 |
| Undergraduate Certificate | 5 | 3 |
| Associate/Associate of Applied Science | 4 | 4 |
| Bachelor | 8 | 9 |
| Master | 2 | 8 |
| Graduate Certificate | 2 | 5 |

*Source: Updated from a Spring 2011 state-wide survey of department representatives, coordinated by Sally Mead. Unlike courses, degree and certificate programs are not encoded in Banner for delivery methods. Program delivery categories are based on the percentage of required courses available in each delivery category.*

eLearning and Blended Program Enrollment (HC) and Student Credit Hours (SCH)

Twenty-two (22) eLearning and Blended programs have been introduced since academic year 2009, and 20 have been discontinued. More students are seeking other UA degrees than any single UAS program; there was an increase in students of about 4% from 2009 – 2011, and 6.5% increase in credit hours. Of UAS programs available with eLearning and Blended deliveries, the AA degree program remains the most popular by headcount, followed by the BBA in Accounting, and the BA in Elementary Education.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **2009** | | **2010** | | **2011** | | **2012** | |
| **Program** | **Delivery** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** |
| **Other UA Students** | eLearning | 1585 | 6778 | 1588 | 6979 | 1654 | 7219 | 902 | 3773 |
| **OEC Accountant** | eLearning |  |  |  |  | 9 | 33 | 5 | 31 |
| **OEC Child Development Associate** | eLearning |  |  | 1 | 8 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 7 |
| **OEC Healthcare Information Technology** | eLearning |  |  |  |  | 7 | 95 | 7 | 43 |
| **CT1 Health Information Mgt** | eLearning | 21 | 197 | 23 | 141 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 14 |
| **CT2 Accounting Technician** | eLearning | 22 | 217 | 34 | 295 | 36 | 376 | 33 | 236 |
| **CT2 Early Childhood Education** | eLearning | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 33 | 3 | 13 |
| **CT2 Health Info Mgmt Coding Specialist** | eLearning |  |  | 24 | 203 | 31 | 372 | 31 | 260.5 |
| **CT2 Healthcare Privacy & Security** | eLearning |  |  | 18 | 146 | 12 | 84 | 8 | 38 |
| **AA General Program** | eLearning | 196 | 2955 | 229 | 3229.5 | 264 | 3860.5 | 196 | 2029.5 |
| **AAS Business Administration** | eLearning | 101 | 1144 | 113 | 1241 | 112 | 1390 | 89 | 799 |
| **AAS Early Childhood Education** | eLearning | 30 | 214 | 28 | 238 | 25 | 226 | 24 | 158 |
| **AAS Health Information Mgt** | eLearning | 47 | 531 | 71 | 894 | 74 | 1060 | 57 | 469.5 |
| **BA - Elementary Education** | eLearning | 86 | 1731 | 105 | 2001 | 121 | 2491 | 103 | 1343 |
| **BBA - Accounting** | eLearning | 116 | 1628 | 143 | 1964 | 186 | 2601 | 180 | 1767.5 |
| **BBA - Entrepreneurship** | eLearning | 27 | 368 | 30 | 378 | 34 | 429 | 29 | 312 |
| **BBA - General Business (Discontinued)** | eLearning | 21 | 257 | 14 | 186 | 9 | 99 | 5 | 40 |
| **BBA - Health Care Administration (Discontinued)** | eLearning | 4 | 60 | 4 | 46 | 2 | 16 | 3 | 25 |
| **BBA - Human Resources Management** | eLearning | 38 | 481 | 60 | 686 | 60 | 738 | 53 | 459 |
| **BBA – Management (Discontinued)** | eLearning | 39 | 459 | 24 | 277 | 13 | 167 | 22 | 212 |
| **BBA - Marketing** | eLearning | 44 | 705 | 48 | 708 | 45 | 611 | 27 | 260 |
| **BBA Pre-major** | eLearning | 4 | 45 | 1 | 12 |  |  | 2 | 11 |
| **BLA Independent Design** | eLearning |  |  |  |  | 1 | 25 |  |  |
| **BLA Interdisciplinary Studies** | eLearning |  |  | 37 | 590 | 71 | 1221 | 62 | 602 |
| **MBA (Discontinued)** | eLearning | 45 | 484 | 46 | 538 | 51 | 477 | 37 | 273 |

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|  |  | **2009** | | **2010** | | **2011** | | **2012** | |
| **Program** | **Delivery** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** |
| **MBA - Global Leadership (Discontinued)** | eLearning |  |  | 2 | 9 | 2 | 33 | 2 | 18 |
| **MED - Special Education** | eLearning | 56 | 671 | 64 | 855 | 79 | 928 | 74 | 848 |
| **MPA** | eLearning | 47 | 392 | 50 | 402 | 58 | 486 | 52 | 284 |
| **Graduate Cert - Business** | eLearning |  |  | 6 | 72 | 3 | 9 |  |  |
| **Graduate Cert - Special Education** | eLearning | 73 | 678 | 72 | 827 | 82 | 898 | 82 | 946 |
| **OEC Admin Office Supp** | Blended | 2 | 42 | 3 | 37 | 2 | 12 | 2 | 6 |
| **OEC Medical Office Supp (Discontinued)** | Blended |  |  | 1 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 8 |
| **OEC Network Admin** | Blended |  |  |  |  | 1 | 10 | 1 | 12 |
| **OEC Network Support Technician** | Blended |  |  | 1 | 3 | 1 | 6 |  |  |
| **OEC Programming Foundations (Discontinued)** | Blended | 1 | 32 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **OEC Web Authoring (Discontinued)** | Blended | 2 | 9 | 3 | 29 | 2 | 18 |  |  |
| **OEC Web Development and Admin (Discontinued)** | Blended |  |  | 1 | 10 |  |  |  |  |
| **OEC Web Development** | Blended |  |  | 3 | 25 | 2 | 13 | 4 | 13 |
| **OEC Web Foundations (Discontinued)** | Blended | 5 | 58 | 5 | 39 | 1 | 1 |  |  |
| **CT2 Admin Office Support (Discontinued)** | Blended |  |  | 1 | 9 | 3 | 36 |  |  |
| **CT2 Computer Info Office Systems** | Blended | 12 | 171 | 8 | 93 | 16 | 150 | 10 | 76 |
| **CT2 Network Admin** | Blended |  |  | 1 | 7 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 1 |
| **CT2 Programming Functions (Discontinued)** | Blended |  |  | 1 | 7 |  |  |  |  |
| **CT2 Web Development** | Blended |  |  | 2 | 38 | 1 | 27 | 1 | 8 |
| **CT2 Web Foundations (Discontinued)** | Blended | 1 | 29 | 2 | 18 |  |  |  |  |
| **AAS Computer Info Off Sys Network and Systems Admin (Discontinued)** | Blended |  |  | 1 | 30 |  |  |  |  |
| **AAS Computer Info Off Sys Network Technician** | Blended | 2 | 41 | 11 | 140 | 28 | 428 | 24 | 266 |
| **AAS Computer Info Off Sys Office Administration (Discontinued)** | Blended | 2 | 12 | 7 | 108 | 9 | 117 | 10 | 97 |
| **AAS Computer Info Off Sys Publications Specialist (Discontinued)** | Blended | 3 | 24 | 6 | 48 | 1 | 1 |  |  |
| **AAS Computer Info Off Sys Web Development** | Blended |  |  | 10 | 131 | 19 | 242 | 15 | 143 |
| **AAS Computer Info Office Systems** | Blended | 26 | 390 | 17 | 208 | 5 | 51 |  |  |
| **AAS Fisheries Technology** | Blended | 11 | 104 | 14 | 201 | 23 | 249 | 19 | 159 |
| **BA English** | Blended | 49 | 915 | 46 | 893 | 55 | 926 | 37 | 431 |

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|  |  | **2009** | | **2010** | | **2011** | | **2012** | |
| **Program** | **Delivery** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** |
| **BA Social Science** | Blended | 34 | 372.5 | 9 | 153 | 8 | 101 | 1 | 13 |
| **BA Social Science - Anthropology** | Blended | 23 | 424 | 26 | 406 | 22 | 378 | 15 | 218 |
| **BA Social Science - Economics** | Blended | 2 | 26 | 7 | 113 | 4 | 89 | 2 | 25 |
| **BA Social Science - Government** | Blended | 10 | 174 | 9 | 140 | 8 | 132 | 8 | 94 |
| **BA Social Science - History** | Blended | 18 | 314 | 17 | 280 | 16 | 220 | 11 | 119 |
| **BA Social Science - Psychology** | Blended | 29 | 472 | 31 | 550 | 46 | 869 | 40 | 476 |
| **BA Social Science - Sociology** | Blended | 12 | 172 | 11 | 203 | 13 | 202 | 9 | 101 |
| **BA Undeclared** | Blended |  |  | 2 | 50 |  |  |  |  |
| **BS Information Systems - Networking (Discontinued)** | Blended | 2 | 21 | 1 | 3 |  |  |  |  |
| **BS Information Systems - Programming (Discontinued)** | Blended | 4 | 72 | 3 | 32 | 3 | 21 | 1 | 16 |
| **BS Information Systems Pre-major (Discontinued)** | Blended | 1 | 31 | 1 | 22 |  |  |  |  |
| **MAT - Early Childhood Education** | Blended | 5 | 36 | 3 | 33 | 5 | 42 | 4 | 30 |
| **MAT - Elementary Distance** | Blended | 87 | 1002 | 89 | 1135 | 98 | 1108 | 76 | 583 |
| **MAT - Undeclared** | Blended | 2 | 30 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 18 |
| **MAT - Secondary Education** | Blended | 69 | 1187 | 67 | 1080 | 61 | 1186 | 52 | 619 |
| **MED - Early Childhood Education** | Blended | 18 | 150 | 24 | 192 | 15 | 128 | 12 | 91 |
| **MED - Educational Leadership** | Blended |  |  | 20 | 483 | 35 | 609 | 32 | 478 |
| **MED - Educational Technology** | Blended | 40 | 305 | 36 | 239 | 31 | 188 | 23 | 126 |
| **MED - Mathematics K-8** | Blended | 15 | 157 | 16 | 162 | 21 | 220 | 19 | 144 |
| **MED - Reading** | Blended | 37 | 296 | 44 | 372 | 54 | 468 | 59 | 358 |
| **MED - Secondary Education (Discontinued)** | Blended | 1 | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **MED - Undeclared** | Blended |  |  | 1 | 5 |  |  |  |  |
| **Graduate Cert - Early Childhood Education** | Blended | 16 | 128 | 23 | 198 | 18 | 185 | 15 | 120 |
| **Graduate Cert - Educational Technology** | Blended | 40 | 308 | 39 | 255 | 30 | 212 | 22 | 121 |
| **Graduate Cert - Elementary Education** | Blended | 78 | 1080.5 | 88 | 1314 | 92 | 1457 | 69 | 577 |
| **Graduate Cert - Mathematics K-8** | Blended | 23 | 232 | 22 | 196 | 24 | 221 | 24 | 158 |
| **Graduate Cert - Reading** | Blended | 26 | 217 | 38 | 353 | 45 | 434 | 48 | 322 |
| **Grand Total** |  | **3311** | **29042** | **3609** | **32979** | **3868** | **36783** | **2760** | **21299** |

*Source: UA Decision Support Database, compiled by UAS IE from closing extracts through Summer 2011, and opening extracts for Fall 2011. Academic year 2012 data includes only Summer and Fall, 2011. Students having secondary curricula were determined from Banner data tables. Duplicated for students in more than one program.*

Course Enrollment (HC) and Student Credit Hours (SCH)

The number of enrollments in courses with eLearning delivery has increased 21% from academic year 2009 to 2011, compared to an 8% increase in Traditional courses. The largest enrollment increase in eLearning has been in lower division courses (29.6%); the largest decline is in Professional level courses. Several courses (especially Special Education, English, Mathematics, and Early Childhood Education) have been recently designated as having Blended delivery.

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|  |  | **2009** | | **2010** | | **2011** | | **2012** | |
| **Delivery** | **Level** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** | **HC** | **SCH** |
| **Blended** | Lower Division |  |  |  |  | 15 | 33 | 162 | 509 |
|  | Graduate |  |  |  |  |  |  | 185 | 552 |
| **Blended Total** |  |  |  |  |  | **15** | **33** | **347** | **1061** |
| **eLearning** | Developmental | 421 | 1595 | 475 | 1805 | 504 | 1926 | 207 | 791 |
|  | Lower Division | 4562 | 12829 | 5319 | 15645 | 5911 | 17809.5 | 2357 | 7360 |
|  | Upper Division | 1871 | 5330 | 2025 | 5727 | 2227 | 6221 | 1048 | 2983 |
|  | Graduate | 2036 | 5679 | 2063 | 6054 | 2148 | 6449 | 843 | 2478 |
|  | Professional | 26 | 59 | 749 | 1280 | 16 | 29 | 10 | 20 |
| **eLearning Total** |  | **8916** | **25492** | **10631** | **30511** | **10806** | **32435** | **4465** | **13632** |
| **Traditional** | Developmental | 971 | 3734 | 1044 | 4022 | 1175 | 4507 | 844 | 3111 |
|  | Lower Division | 8525 | 23915 | 9571 | 27845.5 | 9929 | 29156.5 | 5246 | 15813 |
|  | Upper Division | 2482 | 7058 | 1935 | 5491 | 1999 | 5760 | 1274 | 3620 |
|  | Graduate | 1631 | 4470 | 1572 | 4581 | 1710 | 5135 | 1191 | 3676 |
|  | Professional | 1907 | 3178 | 1902 | 3470 | 2000 | 3772 | 390 | 803 |
| **Traditional Total** |  | **15516** | **42355** | **16024** | **45410** | **16813** | **48331** | **8945** | **27023** |
| **Grand Total** |  | **24432** | **67847** | **26655** | **75921** | **27634** | **80798** | **13757** | **41716** |

Source: UA Decision Support Database (DSD), compiled by UAS IE from closing extracts through Summer 2011, and opening extracts for Fall 2011.

*Academic year 2012 data includes only Summer and Fall, 2011.*

Degree and Certificates Awarded

About 40% of the endorsements, certificates and degrees awarded from academic year 2009 to 2011 have been in eLearning programs, 34% in Blended programs, and 25% in Traditional programs.

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|  | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **Grand Total** |
| Blended | 100 | 138 | 158 | 396 |
| eLearning | 138 | 150 | 181 | 469 |
| Traditional | 71 | 89 | 130 | 290 |

Source: UA Decision Support Database (DSD), compiled by UAS IE from closing extracts.

Degree and Certificate Graduates’ Course Delivery

Two of the students who earned an endorsement, certificate or degree in 2009 had taken 100% of their courses with eLearning delivery, compared to 24 who had done so by the time they graduated in 2011. Most graduates took between 1% and 20% of all their courses at UAS via eLearning.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pct of all Courses** | **Graduates** | | |  |
| **by eLearning** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **Grand Total** |
| 0% | 113 | 71 | 82 | 266 |
| 1-20% | 112 | 104 | 88 | 304 |
| 21-50% | 51 | 100 | 115 | 266 |
| 51-99% | 8 | 72 | 116 | 196 |
| 100% | 2 | 7 | 24 | 33 |
| **Grand Total** | **286** | **354** | **425** | **1065** |

Source: UA Decision Support Database (DSD), compiled by UAS IE from closing extracts. All courses the graduates ever took at UAS (since 1998) were considered, not just the courses required for the degree program.

Students enrolled in UAS classes the last three years are more polarized. Last year, 54% (3,650) of the students took only Traditional courses and 34% (2,284) took only eLearning classes.

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| **Pct of Year's Courses** | **Students** | | |  |
| **by eLearning** | **2009** | **2010** | **2011** | **Grand Total** |
| 0% | 3429 | 3449 | 3650 | 10528 |
| 1-20% | 98 | 141 | 154 | 393 |
| 21-50% | 319 | 351 | 337 | 1007 |
| 51-99% | 275 | 315 | 314 | 904 |
| 100% | 1918 | 2190 | 2284 | 6392 |
| **Grand Total** | **6039** | **6446** | **6739** | **19224** |

Source: UA Decision Support Database (DSD), compiled by UAS IE from closing extracts.

Course Completion

Course completion rates by delivery were evaluated in terms of three completion categories. Grades of D or higher, pass grades, and CR (credit) grades were counted as successful completion. Stasis grades include audits, no basis grades, incompletes, and withdraws; F’s were counted as failures. There were too few Blended courses to provide meaningful completion rates. As might be expected, there has consistently been greater success rates for Traditional courses. However, success rates have been improving and the percentage of stasis grades has been decreasing for both eLearning and Traditional courses.

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|  | **2009** | | | **2010** | | | **2011** | | |
| **Delivery** | **Success** | **Stasis** | **Failure** | **Success** | **Stasis** | **Failure** | **Success** | **Stasis** | **Failure** |
| eLearning | 70.9%  (2028) | 25.1%  (719) | 4.0%  (113) | 73.0%  (2465) | 21.8%  (735) | 5.2%  (176) | 79.1%  (6419) | 16.7%  (1351) | 4.2%  (342) |
| Traditional | 78.7%  (1258) | 18.9%  (302) | 2.4%  (39) | 85.2%  (1399) | 13.4%  (220) | 1.4%  (23) | 85.6%  (9452) | 11.0%  (1211) | 3.5%  (383) |

Source: UA Decision Support Database (DSD) compiled by UAS IE from closing extracts.

eLearning Structure at UAS

At UAS, elearning options are methods of delivering course material. Schools and departments evaluate program goals and make the decision to incorporate eLearning based on student population needs and program objectives. UAS degree programs are managed at the school level.

Since 1999, UAS course web sites have used a ‘hybrid’ strategy combining commercial tools, including Blackboard, with custom software to deliver an integrated brand-neutral system. Beginning with Fall 2012 classes, all UAS course web sites will be delivered by the Blackboard Learn server managed by UAS ITS Services.

UAS policies contribute to a successful eLearning environment, in particular: 1) requiring that every UAS course have an active web site; 2) requiring that these sites be available to students and the public as soon as the course schedule is published; 3) requiring course syllabi be published on all course sites; 4) retaining course web sites indefinitely; 5) leveraging course web sites to deliver institutional as well as course resources; 6) leveraging course web sites to collect student ratings of courses.

Support and Training for eLearning through UAS

Faculty development seminars along with group and one-on-one training with ITS staff are available. UAS policies mandate the use of course websites and similar technologies. Consequently, there is a 90% adoption of web course management technologies across all programs and courses – not just those online. Also, 46% of UAS students providing course evaluations ‘strongly agree’ that technology is used effectively in instruction; this is twice the national average of 22% for this metric.

Faculty in the Schools of Management and Education mentor new and adjunct faculty to ensure they are prepared for instruction through online delivery methods. Education Technology faculty help their colleagues with online teaching assignments. iTeach training is offered regularly in Sitka or Juneau to expand the use of online instruction technologies. In the UAS School of Education, where the majority of graduate degree programs are delivered via eLearning, the class size is usually capped at 20% less than for location-based classes.

Cooperation and Coordination with Other MAUs

UAS core technology resources are available to students at any UA campus, and students signing into UAS systems see all their courses at all UA campuses. This includes both their current UA courses as well as any course they have taken back to the 1990s. UAS continues to collaborate with the IT organizations at UAA and UAF. UAA has provided hosting for Eluminate live for both UAA and UAS. UAS has created self-service tools to login functions (ELMO) that have been adopted throughout the UA system.

Close ties between the AAS in Early Childhood Education at UAS and UAF makes UAF students eligible for priority registration for UAS courses; otherwise the priority registration period is limited to UAS degree-seeking students.

Quality and Assessment

Assessment plans are in place for all degree programs regardless of delivery method. Assessments are reviewed annually and the results reported to Deans and Directors.

Institutional Concerns

Online learning is an essential part of Schools of Education and Management programs, and is in use throughout the Schools of Arts & Sciences and Career Education. The specific approach or delivery method may vary between schools since programs are delivered depending on the target audience and program goals. ELearning is not a function separate from course or program delivery but applied as appropriate.

In reviewing student comments on ITS services there is a desire for advance notice of technologies that will be used in the class and an interest in seeing additional standards in the use of the technology, e.g. required use of electronic grade book. However, these suggestions come from students taking either or both online and location-based courses.

Clearly, meeting the information and instruction needs of off-site students is critical, and a renewed focus in recent years has increased the resources available for these students. For example see: <http://uas.alaska.edu/distance/> for a compilation of resources addressing such essential information as registration, tuition and FAQs. Recently a distance version of freshman and transfer student orientation has been developed to address the specific needs of eLearning students: <http://uas.alaska.edu/orientation/distance/index.html>. UAS Library websites prominently displays relevant information for Distance Education at: <http://www.uas.alaska.edu/library/services/distance-ed.html>.