DISTANCE EDUCATION 2014-2015 PLAN

MISSION

The mission of Distance Education is to ensure that all students have access to and experience quality learning in their distance education courses. Distance learning will employ the best pedagogical practices based on the existing research literature to foster student success in their distance education programs.

GOALS

• Set policies and procedures that support the distance education mission.
• Coordinate Distance Education units and activities (ie. Technology, Library, Student Affairs, etc.) to promote concerted and coherent distance education structures and processes for distance learners.
• Develop and coordinate assessment procedures of distance education courses to ensure high quality of learning experiences.
• Assess current and proposed technology and innovation that are used to support and enhance instructional efforts.
• Support faculty in designing and teaching excellent distant education courses.

DEPARTMENTAL DASHBOARD
* Data Source: IRO Summer 2014
• Number of Instructors Using Online Technology component (online, hybrid, in class) = 107*
• Number of Courses offered via Distance Education 2012 – 2013 = 204 *
• Number of Degrees offered Online/ITV = 1 (Business Administration)
• Number of Degrees offered Online = 2 (Public Administration and Political Science)
• Number of Degrees offered Online/Hybrid = 2 (Social Science – Applied Track and Early Education)
• Number of Certificates Offered Online = 3 (DPEM, Health Care, and Substance Abuse & Addiction Studies)
• Number of Students enrolled in an Online Course from 2006 – Spring 2014 = 15311 *
• Number of Online Courses/HITS/Other 2006 – Spring 2014 = 1244 *
PLANS FOR 2014 - 2015

Develop a DE Strategic Plan
• Develop a collaborative and comprehensive distance education strategic plan that supports the growth and sustains the quality of distance learning at UHWO, one that ensures that students who enroll in distance education courses have outcomes equivalent to or greater than those achieved in traditional classroom settings.
• Establish a full-time DE coordinator and hire a full-time instructional designer
• Hiring of a new full-time Instructional Designer

Assessment
• To identify methodologies and procedures to measure student success and retention.
• Establish a rubric for student learning outcome assessment.
• Increase faculty training in DE methods, technologies and assessment practices through workshops and online courses.

Continued Improvements to the online point of entry (webpage) that promotes a sense of institutional community for distance learners with accessible links to student support services (i. e. advising, bookstore, library, student life, and tutoring)
• Collaborate with the multiple units that have an online component to help build and reinforce a sense of community for DE students.

Review and coordinate information technology requirements and related services in support of distance learning at the University.
• Instruction Designer will join the Distance Learning Planning Group system-wide to coordinate system-wide effort.
• DE will continue to work closely with Information Technology.

Provide faculty training and workshops
• Conduct faculty training to promote the best practices for distance learning. Offer instructional design workshops and individualized consultations to help build quality online courses that meet quality standards. Consider the application of a comparable standard like that used for Writing Intensive courses to future online courses.
• Creation of an online Laulima bootcamp that new faculty and lecturers must complete in order to teach online.