DISTANCE LEARNING

Distance Learning Programs

The Florida Distance Learning Consortium conducted a university program survey for Fall of 2011 that identified programs offered primarily through distance education. According to this survey, 127 baccalaureate programs, 172 master's programs and 16 doctorates were offered primarily through distance education. An additional 337 post-baccalaureate certificate programs were offered primarily through distance education.

Distance Learning (& Hybrid) Course Sections

	FAMU	FAU	FGCU	FIU	FSU	NCF	UCF	UF	UNF	USF	UWF	SYSTEM
2012-13	2%	12%	15%	13%	7%	0%	20%	15%	9%	13%	39%	14%

Note: Distance Learning is a course in which at least 80 percent of the direct instruction of the course is delivered using some form of technology when the student and instructor are separated by time or space, or both (per 1009.24(17), F.S.). Hybrid is a course where 50% to 79% of the instruction is delivered using some form of technology, when the student and instructor are separated by time or space, or both (per SUDS data element 2052).

Distance Learning (FTE) Enrollment

In 2012-13, 21% of the System's instructional activity (FTE) occurred in a distance learning or hybrid course. Two institutions (UCF, UWF) had more than one-third of all FTE delivered using technology at least 50% of the time to bridge students and instructors who are separated by time or space.

2012-13 Distance Learning FTE as a Percentage of Total FTE by Level

	FAMU	FAU	FGCU	FIU	FSU	NCF	UCF	UF	UNF	USF	UWF	SYS
UNDERGRADUATE												
DISTANCE LEARNING	1%	9%	15%	21%	6%	0%	27%	19%	8%	23%	29%	18%
HYBRID	0%	6%	2%	2%	1%	0%	7%	2%	1%	2%	13%	3%
COMBINED	1%	15%	17%	23%	7%	0%	34%	21%	10%	25%	42%	21%
MASTER'S												
DISTANCE LEARNING	0%	25%	27%	14%	12%		32%	22%	14%	28%	58%	23%
HYBRID	0%	2%	10%	1%	5%		12%	1%	7%	3%	9%	4%
COMBINED	0%	27%	37%	15%	18%		44%	22%	21%	32%	67%	28%
DOCTORAL												
DISTANCE LEARNING	0%	10%	17%	2%	1%		13%	16%	5%	4%	39%	9%
HYBRID	0%	1%	16%	2%	0%		7%	4%	5%	0%	21%	3%
COMBINED	0%	11%	34%	4%	2%	8	20%	20%	10%	5%	60%	12%
TOTAL												
DISTANCE LEARNING	0%	11%	16%	20%	6%	0%	27%	19%	9%	23%	32%	18%
HYBRID	0%	6%	3%	2%	2%	0%	7%	2%	2%	2%	12%	3%
COMBINED	0%	16%	19%	21%	8%	0%	34%	21%	11%	25%	44%	21%

Note: Distance Learning is a course in which at least 80 percent of the direct instruction of the course is delivered using some form of technology when the student and instructor are separated by time or space, or both (per 1009.24(17), F.S.). Hybrid is a course where 50% to 79% of the instruction is delivered using some form of technology, when the student and instructor are separated by time or space, or both (per SUDS data element 2052).

Distance Learning (FTE) Enrollment Trends

At the System level, distance learning and hybrid FTE have increased for each level for the past three years – increasing from 17% of total FTE to 21% across all levels. Notably, two institutions (FAU and UF) increased their share of distance learning and hybrid FTE the most – with FAU moving from 8% to 16%, and with UF increasing 14% to 21%.

Distance Learning & Hybrid FTE as a Percentage of Total FTE [3-Year Trends]

	FAMU	FAU	FGCU	FIU	FSU	NCF	UCF	UF	UNF	USF	UWF	SYS
UNDERGRADUATE												
2010-11	0%	6%	19%	18%	3%	0%	30%	15%	5%	21%	56%	17%
2012-13	1%	15%	17%	23%	7%	0%	34%	21%	10%	25%	42%	21%
MASTER'S												
2010-11	0%	24%	42%	12%	18%		44%	14%	15%	30%	77%	25%
2012-13	0%	27%	37%	15%	18%		44%	22%	21%	32%	67%	28%
DOCTORAL												
2010-11	0%	9%	22%	2%	2%		19%	10%	4%	4%	66%	7%
2012-13	0%	11%	34%	4%	2%		20%	20%	10%	5%	60%	12%
TOTAL												
2010-11	0%	8%	21%.	16%	5%	0%	31%	14%	6%	22%	59%	17%
2012-13	0%	16%	19%	21%	8%	0%	34%	21%	11%	25%	44%	21%

2013 Initiatives Related to Distance Learning

The 2013 Legislature created the Complete Florida program for the purpose of recruiting, recovering, and retaining adult learners until degree completion. The program is to be led by the University of West Florida, in coordination with other public and private postsecondary institutions in the state and is to be implemented by the end of the 2013-2014 academic year.

The 2013 Legislature also established the preeminent state research university institute for online learning. The institute, which was later named UF Online, was directed to begin offering high-quality, fully online baccalaureate degree programs in January 2014.

The Board of Governors directed the Chancellor to create a task force to determine ways in which services and online degree programs can be better coordinated to ensure state and student needs are being met in a cost-efficient and effective manner. The Task Force on Postsecondary Online Education in Florida has members from the SUS, the Florida College System, private institutions, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, and the Florida Virtual Campus. Its report will be submitted to the Chancellor in December 2013 for subsequent consideration by the Board of Governors.