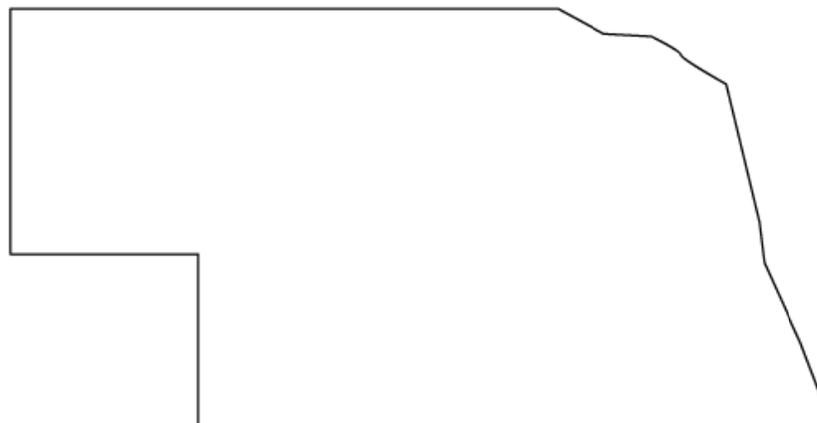


September  
2007

A Report by the  
Coordinating  
Commission for  
Postsecondary  
Education



***Delivering Courses Beyond  
Campus Walls***

**Off-campus and Distance Education in Nebraska  
2004-05 and 2005-06**

# Delivering Courses Beyond the Campus Walls

## Highlights of the Report

### 2004-2005 and 2005-06



#### ***What is distance delivery?***

- Traditional delivery---instructor and students are in the same time and place away from the campus; for example, the instructor drives to a different town or a location in the community other than the campus to meet face-to-face with students.
- Synchronous delivery---instructor and students are in the same time, but not the same place; for example, two-way interactive video, where the instructor is in one location, often on the campus with students in a classroom, and delivers the course at the same time by video to other students at a “receiving” site or sites.
- Asynchronous delivery---instructor and students are in a different time and place; for example, a course on CD-ROM or an Internet-based course where students work on their own and have no specified time for contact with the instructor.

#### ***Which Nebraska institutions offer courses at distance?***

- All six community colleges, the three state colleges, and the University of Nebraska campuses offer courses at distance (Tables I-A and I-B). The data reflects all courses offered at a location other than a main campus or a branch campus.
- The number of courses offered by traditional delivery at Metropolitan Community College and Western Nebraska Community College appear high because both institutions have large education centers that are not considered branch campuses but enroll large numbers of students. In addition, WNCC provides on-site credit courses (often one credit) as training for industry, including Cabela’s in Sidney. WNCC’s traditional delivery courses more than doubled, from 2004-05 to 2005-06.

#### ***What is the most popular method of delivery?***

- When the Commission first collected this information in the early 1990s, traditional delivery was the primary method of reaching students who could not be present on campus. Synchronous delivery consisted of a few two-way interactive video courses and asynchronous delivery was mainly pre-recorded audio and video courses.

- Asynchronous courses have steadily increased in popularity, surpassing their technology sibling, synchronous delivery, in 2000-01 and surpassing even traditional delivery in 2004-05 (Graph I).
- There have been large increases in asynchronous delivery, such as the 46% increase between 2001-2002 and 2002-03. The 3,822 courses offered in 2005-06, however, almost doubled the number offered just two years before.

### ***What courses are offered at distance?***

- Almost every type of course is offered at distance, including courses requiring hands-on activities such as biology, nursing, and mechanics (Tables II-A and II-B).
- Most community colleges report liberal arts and sciences courses, including those for academic transfer programs, together in a single category. Therefore more courses were offered in this category than any other discipline.
- Large numbers of courses were also offered in business, education, health professions, and computer and information sciences. These disciplines have held the top five positions since 1998.

### ***How many students are served by distance technology?***

- In 1998-99, the first year the Commission collected enrollment data, there were 7,512 students (duplicated headcount) enrolled in courses offered either synchronously or asynchronously. Over three times that many were served at distance by traditional delivery (Graph II).
- By 2005-2006 the numbers had shifted dramatically as the delivery methods shifted. While the number of students taking courses by synchronous delivery has remained relatively stable since 2000, the number enrolled in asynchronous courses increased from just over 4,400 in 1998 to 61,640 (duplicated headcount) in 2005.
- The total number of students served by some form of distance education was 92,272 in 2004-05 and 116,584 (duplicated headcount) in 2005-06 (Tables III-A and III-B).

### ***Where are the distance courses offered?***

- Most asynchronous courses are available anywhere a student has access to a computer, including his or her home or work place.
- Most synchronous courses require a location capable of receiving a live transmission from the campus. Many high schools and public buildings have this capability. Some institutions utilize this capability to offer college courses to high school students.
- Synchronous and traditionally-delivered courses were once offered in the majority of Nebraska counties, but this number has declined as the popularity of asynchronous courses has increased.

***Are degrees or other awards available entirely by distance technology?***

- In 2005-06 Nebraska public institutions offered a minimum of 40 degrees, endorsements, and certificates completely by distance technology (four institutions did not report this data). This is almost quadruple the number offered in 1998-99 (Graph III). Four other programs were available completely by traditional distance delivery and 25 by a combination of traditional and distance technology (Table IV).

**Table I – A  
Summary of Delivery Methods and Number of Courses**

**2004-2005**

<b>Institution</b>	<b># Synchronous courses</b>	<b># Asynch courses</b>	<b># Traditional courses</b>	<b>Total # off campus</b>
NCTA	3	10	0	13
UNK	34	141	44	219
UNL	0	365	13	378
UNMC	98	80	6	184
UNO	7	86	213	306
UNIVERSITY TOTALS	142	682	276	1100
CHADRON STATE	161	137	107	405
PERU STATE	0	128	216	344
WAYNE STATE	26	183	149	358
STATE COLLEGE TOTALS	187	448	472	1107
CENTRAL CC	108	294	81	483
METRO CC	121	488	941 <sup>1</sup>	1550
MID-PLAINS CC	68	44	104	216
NORTHEAST CC	128	170	297	595
SOUTHEAST CC	27	775	30	832
WESTERN NE CC	65	115	377 <sup>2</sup>	557
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TOTALS	517	1886	1830	4233
GRAND TOTALS	846	3016	2578	6440

<sup>1</sup> Includes courses offered at Sarpy Center and Fremont Center.

<sup>2</sup> Includes courses offered at Sidney Center and Alliance Center.

**Table I – B  
Summary of Delivery Methods and Number of Courses**

**2005-2006**

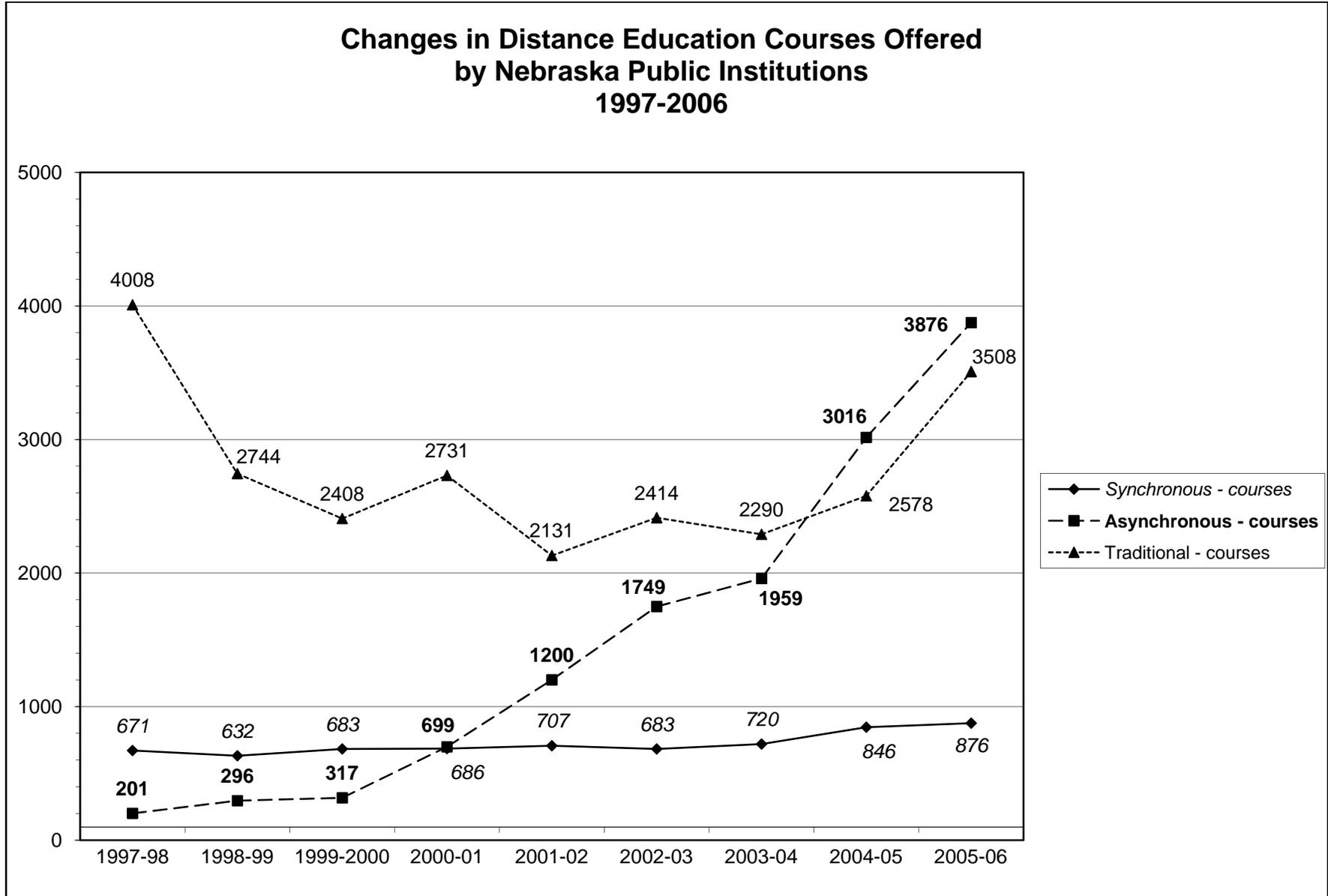
<b>Institution</b>	<b># Synchronous courses</b>	<b># Asynch courses</b>	<b># Traditional courses</b>	<b>Total # off campus</b>
NCTA	NR	NR	NR	NR
UNK	36	239	208	483
UNL	1	411	14	426
UNMC	141	87	2	230
UNO	6	121	313	440
UNIVERSITY TOTALS	184	858	537	1579
CHADRON STATE	182	288	76	546
PERU STATE	0	214	205	419
WAYNE STATE	19	193	157	369
STATE COLLEGE TOTALS	201	695	438	1334
CENTRAL CC	118	501	179	798
METRO CC	122	824	1130 <sup>1</sup>	2076
MID-PLAINS CC	63	66	79	208
NORTHEAST CC	117	201	272	590
SOUTHEAST CC	15	545	61	621
WESTERN NE CC	56	186	812 <sup>2</sup>	1054
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TOTALS	491	2323	2533	5347
GRAND TOTALS	876	3876	3508	8260

NR – No Report

<sup>1</sup> Includes 737 courses offered at Sarpy Center and Fremont Center.

<sup>2</sup> Includes 598 courses offered at Alliance Center, Sidney Center and Cabela's.

Graph I



Traditional courses include courses offered at Sarpy, Fremont, Alliance, and Sidney Centers.

**Table II – A**  
**Number of Distance Education Courses by Discipline**  
**(Traditional, Synchronous, and Asynchronous Delivery)**  
**2004-05**

The five disciplines with the greatest number of courses are indicated with superscript.

Discipline	2 digit CIP <sup>1</sup>	University Subtotals			State College Subtotals			Community College Subtotals			2004-05 Subtotals			2004-05 Totals
		S	A	T	S	A	T	S	A	T	S	A	T	
Agricultural Business & Production	01	3	11					1	32	5	4	43	5	<b>52</b>
Agricultural Sciences	02		22		1						1	22	0	<b>23</b>
Natural Resources & Conservation	03		1								0	1	0	<b>1</b>
Architecture & Related Services	04		1							3	0	1	3	<b>4</b>
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, & Gender Studies	05		2	8							0	2	8	<b>10</b>
Communications & Journalism	09		42	2		2	5	2			2	44	7	<b>53</b>
<b>Computer &amp; Information Sciences<sup>5</sup></b>	11		1	10		3	1		123	358	0	127	369	<b>496</b>
Personal & Culinary Services	12								9		0	9	0	<b>9</b>
<b>Education<sup>3</sup></b>	13	21	269	63	71	199	277			3	92	468	343	<b>903</b>
Engineering	14		5								0	5	0	<b>5</b>
Engineering Technologies/Technicians	15				1	6	2	1	14	23	2	20	25	<b>47</b>
Foreign Languages, Literatures & Linguistics	16	2	2	10	2		2	1			5	2	12	<b>19</b>
Family & Consumer Sciences/Human Services	19		32		3	3	5	13	40	26	16	75	31	<b>122</b>
Vocational Home Economics	20								62	3	0	62	3	<b>65</b>
Legal Professions & Studies	22							8	4	1	8	4	1	<b>13</b>
English Language & Literature/Letters	23	8	8	29		28	41				8	36	70	<b>114</b>
<b>Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences/General Studies<sup>1</sup></b>	24				2	7	2	331	813	729	333	820	731	<b>1884</b>
Library Sciences	25								7		0	7	0	<b>7</b>
Biological & Biomedical Sciences	26		33			4	1					37	1	<b>38</b>

<sup>1</sup> CIP – Classification of Instructional Programs. (a national organizational structure)

Discipline	2 digit CIP <sup>1</sup>	University Subtotals			State College Subtotals			Community College Subtotals			2004-05 Subtotals			2004-05 Totals
		S	A	T	S	A	T	S	A	T	S	A	T	
Mathematics & Statistics	27	3	2	23	6	28	15				9	30	38	77
Reserve Officers' Training Corps	28									12	0	0	12	12
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	30			1		21	11				0	21	11	33
Parks, Recreation, Leisure & Fitness Studies	31		2			2				2	0	5	2	7
Personal Improvement – Basic Skills	32							8	12	46	8	12	46	66
Philosophy & Religion Studies	38		1	8								1	8	9
Physical Sciences	40		5	2	1	3	7				1	8	9	18
Sciences Technologies / Technicians	41								8			8		8
Psychology	42		10	16	28	30	33				28	40	49	117
Security & Protective Services	43	2	1	10	11	5	3	32	14	11	45	20	24	89
Public Administration & Social Services	44		15	19	12						12	15	19	46
Social Sciences	45		19	24	5	2	10				5	21	34	60
Construction Trades	46								2	7		2	7	9
Mechanics & Repair Technologies	47							1	9	13	1	9	13	23
Precision Production	48									27			27	27
Transportation & Materials Moving	49		12	3				1		11	1	12	14	27
Visual & Performing Arts	50		12	3		3	6	6	10	1	6	25	10	41
<b>Health Professions &amp; Related Clinical Sciences<sup>4</sup></b>	51	98	107	6				61	326	262	159	433	268	860
<b>Business Management &amp; Admin. Services<sup>2</sup></b>	52	5	61	11	44	96	32	51	381	285	100	538	328	966
High School / Secondary Diploma & Certificate	53								20			20		20
History	54		6	28		5	19			2		11	49	60
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>142</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>1886</b>	<b>1830</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>3016</b>	<b>2578</b>	<b>6440</b>

**Table II – B**  
**Number of Distance Education Courses by Discipline**  
**(Traditional, Synchronous, and Asynchronous Delivery)**  
**2005-06**

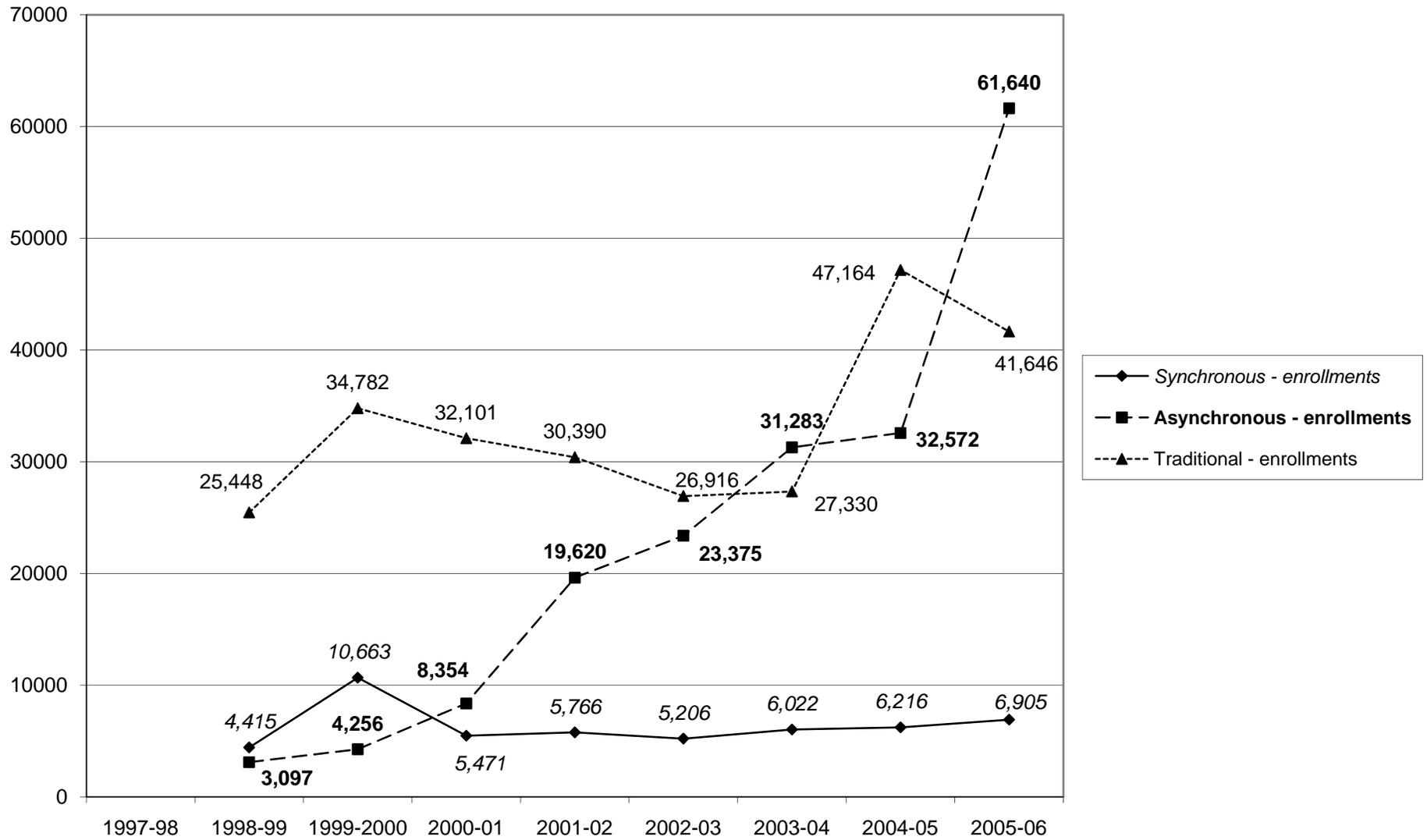
The five disciplines with the greatest number of courses are indicated with superscript.

Discipline	2 digit CIP <sup>2</sup>	University Subtotals			State College Subtotals			Community College Subtotals			2005-06 Subtotals			2005-06 Totals
		S	A	T	S	A	T	S	A	T	S	A	T	
Agricultural Business & Production	01		6		4			1	32	6	5	38	6	<b>49</b>
Agricultural Sciences	02		31								0	31	0	<b>31</b>
Architecture & Related Services	04		8							4	0	8	4	<b>12</b>
Area, Ethnic, Cultural, & Gender Studies	05		5	4							0	5	4	<b>9</b>
Communications & Journalism	09	1	34			3	6	2		1	3	37	7	<b>47</b>
<b>Computer &amp; Information Sciences<sup>5</sup></b>	11			5		8			187	395	0	195	400	<b>595</b>
Personal & Culinary Services	12							6	10	17	6	10	17	<b>33</b>
<b>Education<sup>3</sup></b>	13	17	321	221	111	350	249		13		128	684	470	<b>1282</b>
Engineering	14		5								0	5	0	<b>5</b>
Engineering Technologies/Technicians	15					7	6	1	28	62	1	35	68	<b>104</b>
Foreign Languages, Literatures & Linguistics	16	4	2	14			3			4	4	2	21	<b>27</b>
Family & Consumer Sciences/Human Services	19		37		6	13		9	75	37	15	125	37	<b>177</b>
Vocational Home Economics	20								4	6	0	4	6	<b>10</b>
Legal Professions & Studies	22							8	5	3	8	5	3	<b>16</b>
English Language & Literature/Letters	23	10	25	33		36	38	2	51	30	12	112	101	<b>225</b>
<b>Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences/General Studies<sup>1</sup></b>	24					5		315	841	815	315	846	815	<b>1976</b>
Library Sciences	25								10		0	10	0	<b>10</b>
Biological & Biomedical Sciences	26	3	77			8			14	3	3	99	3	<b>105</b>
Mathematics & Statistics	27	4	9	39	4	34	17		31	9	8	74	65	<b>147</b>

<sup>2</sup> CIP – Classification of Instructional Programs. (a national organizational structure)

Discipline	2 digit CIP <sup>2</sup>	University Subtotals			State College Subtotals			Community College Subtotals			2005-06 Subtotals			2005-06 Totals
		S	A	T	S	A	T	S	A	T	S	A	T	
Reserve Officers' Training Corps	28									8	0	0	8	8
Military Technologies	29									1	0	0	1	1
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	30					29	26				0	29	26	55
Parks, Recreation, Leisure & Fitness Studies	31	1	5	1	2	1				7	3	6	8	17
Personal Improvement - Basic Skills	32							6	39	136	6	39	136	181
Leisure and Recreation	36								5		0	5	0	5
Philosophy & Religion Studies	38			6							0	0	6	6
Physical Sciences	40		12	12			5				0	12	17	29
Psychology	42		13	30	18	49	20	8	29	4	26	91	54	171
Security & Protective Services	43	1		11	8	11	9	31	28	22	40	39	42	121
Public Administration & Social Services	44		17	27	12				19		12	36	27	75
Social Sciences	45		31	44	3	4	10	4	6	3	7	41	57	105
Construction Trades	46								8	14	0	8	14	22
Mechanics & Repair Technologies	47							2	12	71	2	12	71	85
Precision Production	48									35	0	0	35	35
Transportation & Materials Moving	49		12	2						6	0	12	8	20
Visual & Performing Arts	50		9	3		5	3	5	31	7	5	45	13	63
<b>Health Professions &amp; Related Clinical Sciences<sup>4</sup></b>	51	140	99	4	1	8		49	252	295	190	359	299	848
<b>Business Management &amp; Admin. Services<sup>2</sup></b>	52	3	94	16	32	114	21	42	587	526	77	795	563	1435
History	54		6	65		10	25		6	6	0	22	96	118
<b>Total</b>		<b>184</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>2323</b>	<b>2533</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>3876</b>	<b>3508</b>	<b>8260</b>

**Graph II**  
**Changes in Distance Education Enrollments in Nebraska**



Traditional enrollments include students taking courses at Sarpy, Fremont, Alliance, and Sidney Centers. Enrollment information is not available for 1997-98.

**Table III – A**  
**Estimate of the Number of Nebraska Students Served by Distance Learning**  
**(duplicated headcount)**  
**2004-2005**

Institution/Sector	Synchronous		Asynchronous	Sub-Total	Traditional	Grand Total
	Sending	Receiving				
UNK	379	247	2436	3062	400	3462
UNL	0	0	3635	4205	171	3806
UNMC	838	842	1318	2998	34	3032
UNO	NR	11	1781	1813	2227	4008
NCTA	4	27	61	92	0	92
University Total	1221	1127	9231	12,170	2832	14,400
CSC	NR	728	2031	2759	1050	3809
PSC	0	0	3191	3191	3149	6340
WSC	191	181	2270	2642	2844	5486
State College Total	191	909	7492	8592	7043	15,635
CCC	870	1083	9484	11,437	780	12,217
MCC	1124	1067	7894	10,085	10,973 <sup>1</sup>	21,058
MPCC	1293	769	690	2752	858	3610
NeCC	841	252	2317	3410	2348	5758
SCC	47	331	8596	8974	540	9514
WNCC	744	678	1460	2882	7198 <sup>2</sup>	10,080
Community College Total	4919	4180	30,441	39,540	22,697	62,237
Grand Totals	6331	6216	47,164	60,302	32,572	92,272

NR – No Report

<sup>1</sup> Includes students taking courses offered at Sarpy Center and Fremont Center.

<sup>2</sup> Includes students taking courses offered at Alliance Center, Sidney Center and Cabela's.

**Table III – B**  
**Estimate of the Number of Nebraska Students Served by Distance Learning**  
**(duplicated headcount)**  
**2005-2006**

Institution/Sector	Synchronous		Asynchronous	Sub-Total	Traditional	Grand Total
	Sending	Receiving				
UNK	461	230	4259	4950	1208	6158
UNL	16	4	4390	4410	285	4695
UNMC	1290	1193	1308	3791	4	3795
UNO	NR	22	2414	2436	2613	5049
NCTA	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
University Total	1767	1449	12,371	15,587	4110	19,697
CSC	NR	824	3348	4172	579	4751
PSC	0	0	5851	5851	2934	8785
WSC	118	159	2121	2398	2515	4913
State College Total	118	983	11,320	12,421	6028	18,449
CCC	970	1203	9232	11,405	2529	13,934
MCC	1108	1296	14,309	16,713	12,231 <sup>1</sup>	28,944
MPCC	1164	956	1165	3285	697	3982
NECC	925	506	2842	4273	2175	6448
SCC	47	217	9006	9270	800	10,070
WNCC	476	295	1395	2166	12,894 <sup>2</sup>	15,060
Community College Total	4690	4473	37,949	47,112	31,326	78,438
Grand Totals	6575	6905	61,640	75,120	41,464	116,584

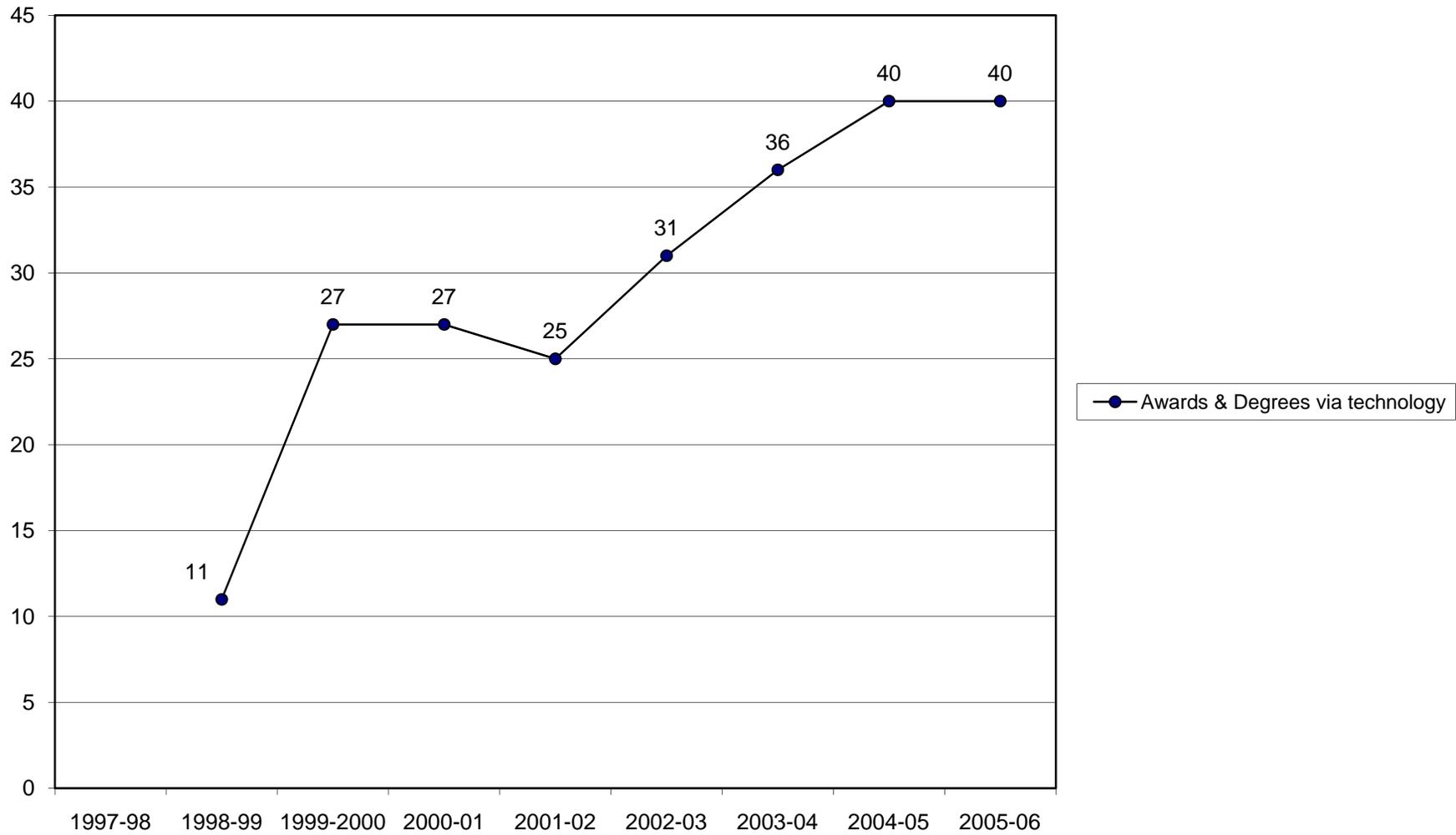
NR – No Report

<sup>1</sup> Includes students taking courses offered at Sarpy Center and Fremont Center.

<sup>2</sup> Includes students taking courses offered at Alliance Center, Sidney Center and Cabela's.

Graph III

Awards & Degrees Available from Nebraska Public Institutions via Technology



**Table IV  
Degrees available by Distance**

Institution	2004-05			2005-06		
	Entirely by Distance	Traditional	Combination of Distance & Traditional	Entirely by Distance	Traditional	Combination of Distance & Traditional
NCTA	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
UNK	11	0	4	11	0	4
UNL	6	0	6	6	0	6
UNMC	2	0	2	2	0	2
UNO	1	0	2	1	0	2
UNIVERSITY TOTALS	20	0	14	20	0	14
CHADRON STATE	13	0	4	13	0	4
PERU STATE	2	3	3	2	3	3
WAYNE STATE	1	1	2	1	1	2
STATE COLLEGE TOTALS	16	4	9	16	4	9
CENTRAL CC	0	0	0	0	0	0
METRO CC	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
MID-PLAINS CC	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
NORTHEAST CC	0	0	2	0	0	2
SOUTHEAST CC	4	0	0	4	0	0
WESTERN NE CC	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TOTALS	4	0	2	4	0	2
GRAND TOTALS	40	4	25	40	4	25

NR – No Report