What is the Role of Distance Learning in the State University System?

What is distance learning?

Distance learning is the term used when the delivery of instruction involves the separation of student(s) and the instructor by time and/or space. Some forms of distance learning include correspondence, telecourses, online instruction, computer assisted instruction, and instructional delivery that relies upon satellite, cable, broadcast (TV or radio), the Internet, CD, DVD, or other technologies These mechanisms enable faculty to provide instruction other than in a scheduled, classroom, face-to-face experience. There are many terms for distance learning, including, but not limited to, distance education, flexible learning, distributed learning, and technology-mediated instruction.

Who enrolls in distance learning courses/programs?

Often, adult students who would not be able to earn college credit otherwise enroll in distance learning courses/programs. However, traditional, on-campus students who find this mode of instruction effective, convenient, and available all of the time also enroll.

How do students benefit from online enrollment and course completion?

Students who complete courses/programs via distance learning gain a mastery of technology that enhances workplace skills and competence to participate in the global economy and global information exchange. Students can expect high-quality learning experiences due to course materials that are easily revised by instructors and always available to students for review and practice. However, students can gain these benefits from "blended" or "hybrid" courses, as well. The majority of distance learning courses include a blend of regular classroom instruction and technology-mediated instruction. Nearly every one of these courses has a Web site that is available only to the registered students and contains relevant materials that can be accessed at any time. This feature provides the opportunity to decrease classroom time and to support students' active learning. Blended and fully distance courses are usually scheduled for the normal semester calendar with specific due dates for assignments and exams just as any other course.

Do all of the universities in the State University System (SUS) offer distance learning courses/programs?

Instructional technology is in use at all SUS institutions to enhance professional and workplace skills for graduates. Ten universities offer a total of **269** online programs. Among these programs are baccalaureate-completion degrees (38), graduate degrees (108 master's level; 12 specialist and doctoral levels), and certificates (111). Students most often earn credit through a combination of on-campus (traditional) courses and distance learning courses.

How many students earn credit via distance learning?

During the 2006-2007 Academic Year (A/Y), **17,514** students in the State University System of Florida earned credit through distance learning courses only; **152,137** students earned some credit through distance learning courses. The total student headcount for A/Y 2006-2007 was **294,016.** (See Table 1 and Figure 1.) These data have been collected since A/Y 1997-1998. During this 10-year period, the entire student headcount has increased 1.4 times. The number of students earning some credit via distance learning has increased 4.4 times, and the number of students enrolled only in distance learning courses has increased 11.5 times.

During A/Y 2006-2007, the number of distance education course sections increased by 19% over the previous year. The student headcount enrolled *only* in distance learning courses increased by 29% during the same one-year period.

Table 1: Student Enrollment (Headcount) in Distance Learning Courses in the State University System of Florida

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-03	2005-06	2006-07
Students Enrolled Only in Distance Learning Courses	1,511	3,375	5,305	4,687	7,101	8,849	9,061	10,691	13,595	17,514
Students Enrolled in At Least One Distance Learning Course	34,563	40,449	49,398	56,198	76,098	111,327	109,172	119,441	131,386	152,137
SUS TOTAL HEADCOUNT (All Degree Levels)	218,290	223,922	232,794	240,753	251,984	262,354	271,337	277,582	292,403	294,016

Chart 1 - Growth of E-Learning in the State University System of Florida

Legend: ■ DIST ED ONLY HEADCOUNT ▨ DIST ED TOTAL HEADCOUNT ▢ SUS TOTAL HEADCOUNT
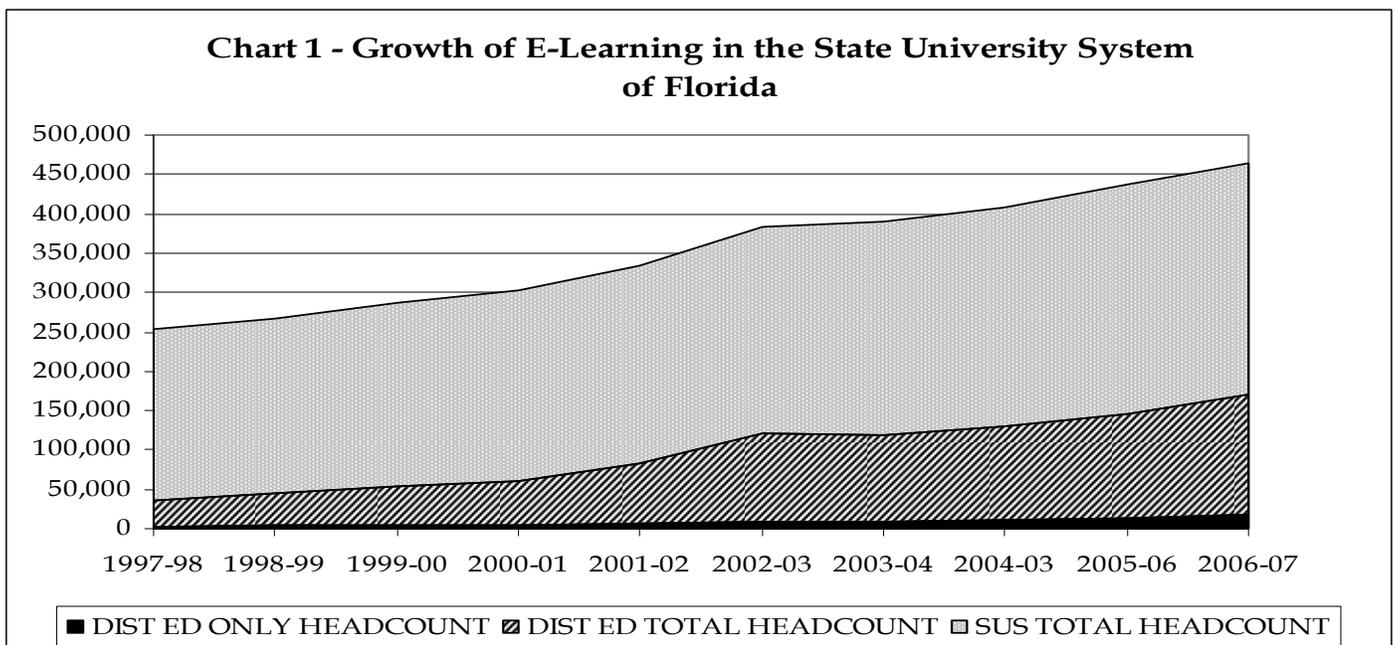
Chart 2 - Percentage of Total Student Headcount Enrolled Only in Distance Learning Courses

Year	Percentage
1997-98	~0.7%
1998-99	
1999-00	~2.2%
2000-01	~1.9%
2001-02	~2.8%
2002-03	~3.3%
2003-04	~3.3%
2004-03	~3.9%
2005-06	~3.9%
2006-07	~6%
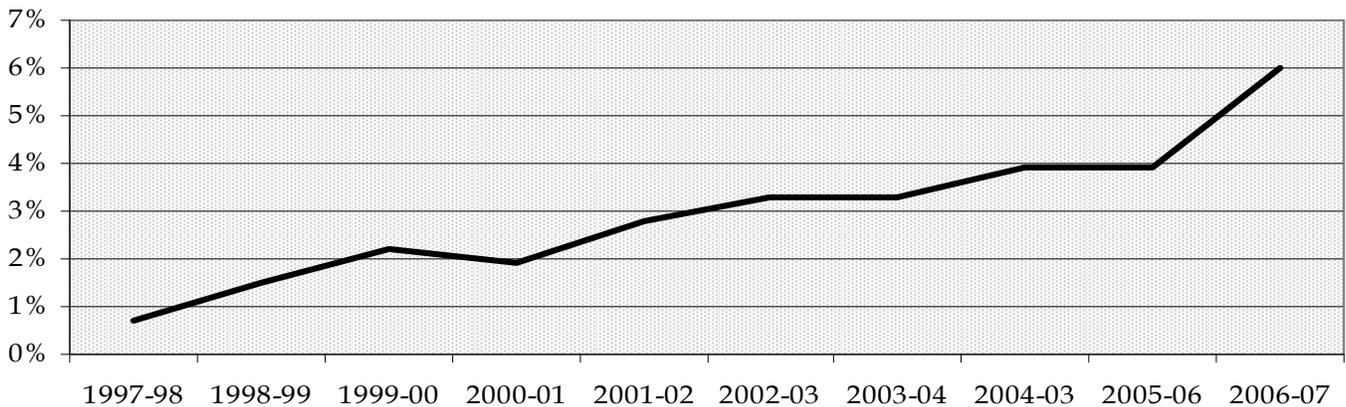
Florida Distance Learning Consortium

The Florida Distance Learning Consortium (FDLC) is a member service organization that provides opportunities for collaboration, resource sharing, and achieving economies of scale in procurement of instructional technology resources. A primary FDLC goal is to coordinate and encourage the use of technology-enhanced educational resources that support the mission of Florida educational institutions and ensure maximum access to education for all Florida residents by eliminating the barriers of distance, time, and place. The FDLC also serves as an advisory committee to the State Board of Education and the Florida Board of Governors and is supported by state appropriations. Membership includes public universities and community colleges, and independent colleges and universities accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The FDLC maintains on its Web site (www.distancelearn.org) an online searchable database of distance education courses and programs available from member institutions, along with links to other important educational technology initiatives and resources.

Distance learning degrees and certificates by institution in the SUS

Ten of the eleven public universities in Florida offer courses and programs via distance learning. Each year, the institutions respond to a request from the Board of Governors Office for an inventory of distance learning programs and certificates. The next few pages categorize this information by institution, level, program title, and whether the programs are fully or mostly available at a distance. The data reported herein are for the Academic Year 2006-2007.

SUS Distance Learning Programs - Undergraduate BA/BS Degree Programs by Institution, February 2008											
	UF	**FSU**	**FAMU**	**USF**	**FAU**	**UWF**	**UCF**	**FIU**	**UNF**	**FGCU**	
Undergraduate BA/BS Degree Completion Programs	*NCF has no DE courses/programs*										**Count by Degree**
Applied Sciences, BS				0							1
Business Administration/Finance, BS								0			1
Business Administration/Human Resource Mgmt., BS								0			1
Business Administration/International Business, BS								0			1
Business Administration/Management, BS	X							0			2
Career & Technical Studies/Vocational Program Development, BS						0					1
Career & Technical Studies/Vocational Teacher Education, BS						0					1
Computer Sciences/Software Engineering, BS		0									1
Criminal Justice, BS								0		0	2
Criminology, BA				X							1
Electrical Engineering, BS				X							1
Engineering Technology, BSET							0				1
Engineering Technology/Information Engineering Tech., BS						0					1
Exceptional Student Education/Elementary-Special Ed. (Dual Major), BA						0					1
Fire & Emergency Services, BS	0										1
Health Sciences, Allied Health BS						0				0	2
Health Sciences, Health Care Prof. BS						0					1
Health Sciences, Medical Info. Tech. BS						0					1
Health Services Administration, BS							0				1
Information Systems Technology, BS							0				1
Interdisciplinary Information Technology/Networking and Telecommunications, BS						0					1
Interdisciplinary Studies, BS or BA							0				1
Interdisciplinary Social Science, BS		0									1
Legal Studies, BS										0	1
Long-Term Care Administration, BS										0	1
Maritime Studies, BS						0					1
Nursing, RN to BSN		0		X	0	0		0		0	6
Oceanography, BS						0					1
Radiologic Science, AS to BS							0				1
Technical Education & Industry Training, BS							0				1
Count by Institution	**2**	**3**	**0**	**4**	**1**	**10**	**7**	**6**	**0**	**5**	**38**

34 of 38 undergraduate degree programs are fully accessible away from campus, indicated by a 0.

The programs marked with an X are blended programs, with the majority of the coursework offered via distance.

SUS Distance Learning Programs - Master's Level
Programs by Institution, February 2008

Graduate Programs/ Master's Level	UF	FSU	FAMU	USF	FAU	UWF	UCF	FIU	UNF	FGCU	Program Count
NCF has no graduate programs.											
Accounting, Executive Master's					0						1
Accounting, MBA					X						1
Accounting, MS					X						1
Acquisition & Contract Management, MSA						0					1
Agriculture Ed. & Communications, MS	X										1
Biomedical/Pharmaceutical, MSA						0					1
Business Administration, MBA	X	0			0			X		0	5
Computer Engineering, MS	0										1
Computer Science, MS						0					1
Construction Management, M							0				1
Criminal Justice Admin., MSA						0					1
Criminal Justice, MS						0	0				2
Criminology, MS		0									1
Education/Mathematics, MS		0									1
Education/C&I (Elementary Ed). M.Ed.						0					1
Education/C&I (ESOL Endorsement), M.Ed.						0					1
Education/C&I (Middle Level), M.Ed.						0					1
Education/C&I (Primary), M.Ed.						0					1
Education/C&I (Reading Endorsement), M.Ed.						0					1
Education/C&I (Secondary Comp.), M.Ed.						0					1
Education/C&I (Secondary Ed - TESOL), M.Ed.				0							1
Education/C&I(Ed. Tech.), M.Ed. & MA	0					0			0		3
Education/C&I (Teacher Leadership), M.Ed.	0										1
Education/Career & Technical, MA				0							1
Education/Exceptional Ed./Varying Exceptionalities, M.Ed & MA							0				1
Education/Exceptional Student, MA						0					1
Education/Gifted, MA				0							1
Education/Instructional Tech., M.Ed. & MA						0	0				2
Education/ISD (Performance Improvement), MS		0									1
Education/ISD(Open & Distance Learning), MS		0									1
Education/Leadership (ETMS), M.Ed.						0					1
Education/Leadership (ETMS-IT), M.Ed.						0					1
Education/Leadership (ETS-HPT), M.Ed.						0					1
Education/Leadership (Instructional Technology), M.Ed.									0		1
Education/Mathematics, MS		0									1

SUS Distance Learning Programs - Master's Level
Programs by Institution, February 2008

Graduate Programs/ Master's Level	UF	FSU	FAMU	USF	FAU	UWF	UCF	FIU	UNF	FGCU	Program Count
					NCF has no graduate programs.						
Education/Music, MA				X							1
Education/Physical, MS		0		0							2
Education/Science, MS		0									1
Education/Special, MS		0									1
Education/Career & Technical, MA							0				1
Educational Leadership, MS		0									1
Educational Leadership, MSA						0					1
Engineering, MS	X						0		X		3
Engineering/Aerospace, MS	0										1
Engineering/Civil & Environmental, ME				0							1
Engineering/Civil, MS	0										1
Engineering/Environmental, MS	0										1
Engineering/Industrial, MS				0							1
Engineering/Management, MS				0							1
Engineering/Mechanical, MS	0										1
Engineering/Electrical, MS	0			0							1
Engineering/Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater, MS & ME	X										1
Entomology, MS	X										1
Entrepreneurship, MS	X										1
Environmental Science, MS	X										1
Forensic Sciences, MS							0	X			2
Geriatric Recreation Therapy, MS										0	1
Health Care Administration, MSA						0					1
Health Sciences, MS										0	1
Hospitality Management, M							0				1
Human Performance Technology, MSA						0					1
Information Science/Operation Management, MS	X										1
International Construction, MS	X										1
Latin, MA	X										1
Library & Information Studies, MS & MA		0		X							2
Management Information Systems, MIS		0									1
Management/Non-Profit, MNM							0				1
Materials Science & Engineering, MS	0										1
Nurse Anesthesiology, MSN								X			1
Nursing Administration, MSA						0					1
Nursing, MS	X			X			0				3
Nursing, RN to BSN		0									1
Nursing/Administration, MS					0						1
Nursing/Gerontology, MS					X						1
Occupational Therapy, MS	X							X		XX	4
Pharmacy/Forensic Drug Chemistry, MS	X										1
Pharmacy/Forensic Science, MS	X										1
Pharmacy/Regulation & Policy, MS	X										1
Pharmacy;Forensic DNA & Serology, MS	X										1

SUS Distance Learning Programs - Master's Level
Programs by Institution, February 2008

Graduate Programs/ Master's Level	UF	FSU	FAMU	USF	FAU	UWF	UCF	FIU	UNF	FGCU	Program Count
NCF has no graduate programs.											
Public Administration, MA										X	1
Public Administration, MSA						0					1
Public Health Admin, MPH				0		0		0			3
Public Health Practice, MPH				0							1
Risk Management/Insurance, MS		0									1
Social Work, MSW		0									1
Speech Language Pathology, MS		0									1
Taxation, Executive Master's					0						1
Veterinary Medical Sci./Forensic Toxicology, MS	X										1
Count by Institution	**26**	**16**	**0**	**13**	**7**	**22**	**8**	**8**	**2**	**7**	**109**

> **80 of 109 master's level programs are fully accessible away from campus, indicated by a 0.**
>
> **The programs marked with an X are blended programs, with the majority of the coursework offered via distance.**

SUS Distance Learning Programs - Doctoral Level
Programs by Institution, February 2008

Graduate Programs/Doctoral & Specialist Levels	UF	FSU	FAMU	USF	FAU	UWF	UCF	FIU	UNF	FGCU	Program Count
NCF offers no graduate degrees.											
Education/Higher Ed. Admin.-Community College Leadership, EdD	X										2
Education/Curriculum & Instruction/Ed. Technology, EdS	0			0							2
Audiology, Aud.D.	X										1
Pharmacy, Pharm.D.	X										1
Classics/Classical Civilization, PhD	X										1
Physical Therapy, DPT										X	1
Education/Leadership/lK-12, EdS & EdD	X										1
Education/Curriculum & Instruction/Teacher Leadership for School Improvement, EdS	0										1
Classica/Latin & Roman Studies, PhD	X										1
Library & Information Studies Specialist		0									1
Education/Career & Workforce, PhD				X							1
	8	**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**12**

> **4 of 12 specialist and doctoral level programs are fully accessible away from campus, indicated by a 0.**
>
> **The programs marked with an X are blended programs, with the majority of the coursework offered via distance.**

Certificates	UF	FSU	FAMU	USF	FAU	UWF	UCF	FIU	UNF	FGCU	Program Count
					NCF has no certificate programs via distance education.						
Africana Studies				X							1
Banking								X			1
Career Counseling				X							1
Career and Technical Ed.						0					1
Children's Mental Health				0							1
Clinical Investigation				0							1
Clinical Laboratory Science									0		1
College Teaching				X							1
Community College Education							0				1
Compliance									0		1
Criminal Justice Administration				X							1
Curriculum & Instruction (Grad Level)	0										1
Database Systems						0					1
Diasporas & Health Disparities				X							1
Digital Music Education				0							1
Disaster Management				0							1
e-Business Certificate								X			1
Educational Technology	0										1
e-Learning Prof. Development							0				1
Engineering: Technology Management				0							1
Engineering: Total Quality Management				0							1
Engineering: Transportation Systems Analysis				0							1
Engineering: Wireless Engineering				0							1
Entrepreneurship				0				X			2
Environmental Policy & Management (Grad level)	0										1
ESOL				0						0	2
Event Management		0									1
Executive Emergency Management Officer (Undergrad Level)	0										1
Executive EMS Officer (Undergrad Level)	0										1
Executive Fire Officer (Undergrad Level)	0										1
Forensic DNA & Serology (Grad Level)	0										1
Forensic Drug Chemistry (Grad Level)	0										1
Forensic Science								X			1
Forensic Toxicology (Grad Level)	0										1
Forensic Death Investigation (Grad Level)	0										1
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)						0					1
Geomatics (Undergrad Level)	0										1
Geriatric Care Management (Undergrad/Grad)	0										1
Gerontology				0				X			2
Gifted Education				0			0				2
Health Care Risk Management (Grad Level)	0										1
Health Management and Leadership				X							1

	UF	FSU	FAMU	USF	FAU	UWF	UCF	FIU	UNF	FGCU	
Certificates											**Program Count**
Health Sciences				0							1
Health Services Admin.									0		1
Hearing Specialist: Early Intervention				X							1
Human Performance Tech.		0				0					2
Humanitarian Assistance				0							1
Infection Control				0		0					2
Initial Teacher Professional Prep.							0				1
Instructional Design for Simulation							0				1
Instructional Technology							0				1
Instructional Technology: Distance Education				X							1
Instructional Technology: Florida Digital Educator				0							1
Instructional Technology: Instructional Design				X							1
Instructional Technology: Web Design				0							1
International Bank Management								X			1
K-12 Technology Integration (Grad Level)	0										1
Landscape Pest Management (Grad Level)	0										1
Leadership & Management		0									1
Leadership in Executive & Admin. Development		0									1
Library & Info. Science, Post MS				X							1
Materials Science & Engineering (Grad Level)	0										1
Media Literacy	0										1
Medical Informatics						0					1
Mental Health Planning, Evalution & Accountability				X							1
Multimedia Journalism				X							1
Non-Profit Management							0				1
Nurse Educator		0					0				2
Nurse Practitioner, Post MSN				X							1
Occupational Health Nursing				0							1
Online Education Media							0				1
Online Instructional Development		0									1
Online Teaching & Learning (Grad Level)	0										1
Pamily Nurse Practitioner		0									1
Paralegal								X			1
Pest Control Technology (Undergrad/Grad)	0										1
Play Therapy				X							1
Pre-K Handicapped Endorsement							0				1
Professional Accountancy						0					1
Professional Writing							0				1

NCF and FAMU have no certificate programs via distance education.

Certificates	UF	FSU	FSU	USF	FAU	UWF	UCF	FIU	UNF	FGCU	Program Count
				NCF and FAMU have no certificate programs via distance education.							
Public Health	0										1
Public Health Generalist				0							1
Public Health Policy & Programs				0							1
Public Health: Emergency Management						0					1
Public Health: Environmental Health						0					1
Public Health: Occupational Safety & Health						0					1
Public Health: Readiness and Response						0					1
Public Procurement, Graduate					0						1
Public Procurement, Undergraduate					0						1
Reference Services		0									1
Regulatory Affairs-Medical Devices				0							1
Research Methods				X							1
School Library Media Leadership		0									1
School Library Media Specialist				X							1
Social Science Education				X							1
Special Education							0				1
Teacher Leadership for School Improvement	0										1
Teacher Ready						0					1
Technology System Support						0					1
Teaching and Learning with Technology	0										1
Urban Pest Management (Undergrad/Grad)	0										1
Web Design		0									1
Women's Studies								0			1
Youth Services		0									1
Count by Institution	23	11	0	38	2	13	12	7	1	4	111

87 of 111 certificate programs are fully accessible away from campus, indicated by a 0.

The programs marked with an X are blended programs, with the majority of the coursework offered via distance.

SUS Distance Learning Programs - Undergraduate Programs (Under Development)
Programs by Institution, February 2008

Undergraduate Programs	UF	FSU	FAMU	USF	FAU	UWF	UCF	FIU	UNF	FGCU	Program Count
NCF has no DE programs under development.											
Education/Secondary, BA			X								1
Graphic Communications, BA			X								1
Construction Engineering, BS			X								1
Business Education, BS			X								1
Computer Information Science, BS			X								1
Information Technology, BS				X							1
Electrical Engineering, BS	X										1
Count by Institution	1	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7

SUS Distance Learning Programs - Graduate Programs (Under Development)
Programs by Institution and Level, February 2008

Graduate Programs	UF	FSU	FAMU	USF	FAU	UWF	UCF	FIU	UNF	FGCU	Program Count
NCF has no DE programs under development											
MSH, Nutrition Track									X		1
DNP, Clinical Nursing									X		1
MS, Decision Information Sciences	X										1
MS, Industrial & Systems Engineering	X										1
Doctorate of Business Administration	X										1
MSA, Database Adminstration						0					1
MSA, Leadership						0					1
MSA, Software Engineering Administration						0					1
Count by Institution	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	8

SUS Distance Learning Programs - Certificate Programs (Under Development)
Programs by Institution, February 2008

Certificate Programs	UF	FSU	FAMU	USF	FAU	UWF	UCF	FIU	UNF	FGCU	Program Count
NCF has no DE programs under development.											
Health Promotion								X			1
Environmental Health								X			1
Environmental Forensics (Grad Level)	X										1
Count by Institution	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3

3 of 26 programs under development are fully accessible away from campus, indicated by a 0.

The programs marked with an X are blended programs, with the majority of the coursework offered via distance.