



WaveLength

Distance Course Enrollment Up

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More and more college students as well as some high school students are opting to pursue their educational goals from home through non-traditional distance courses. Most classes that are offered give students the option to choose where and when to view course material and the freedom to study at their own pace.

With college enrollment almost at a standstill, online enrollment is growing by leaps and bounds. Plus, the recent reversal of a federal rule requiring colleges to provide at least half of their instruction on campus will boost it more. It is estimated by Eduventures, a Boston marketing research firm, that one tenth of college students in 2008 will be enrolled in an online degree program.

Public universities and colleges such as SwVCC appear to be leading the way in most of the growth. Once faculty and staff accept the technological changes and get by the learning curve, many schools are finding success in online programs. Quality education can be offered at affordable prices and

contoured to the student's time schedule resulting in attracting non-traditional students such as professionals, stay-at-home parents and those with transportation issues.

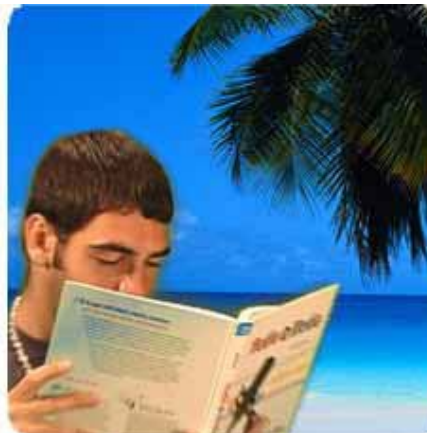
At SwVCC, distance learning enrollment has increased 288% over the last decade. Most are working adults

best circumstances for attending a traditional classroom setting."

The quality gap is closing between online and classroom teaching due to the improved technology, such as software that allows students to see and hear an instructor work through a mathematics problem on an

electronic calculator and then on a whiteboard by hand. One of the key things to evaluate when considering online education is accreditation. Many a student has finished an online degree only to find that coursework will not transfer to other colleges or universities due to the lack of accreditation. A student should give

careful consideration to the accreditation and certifications a school holds. As the wave of online learning flourishes, competition between institutions will become greater providing more options for the student. In the light of improved technology, this should prove to be to the student's advantage when considering distance courses.



Online learning has made a tremendous leap into mainstream education.

between the ages of 25 and 50 and most are from in-state. According to DDL Director Tom Cash, "Distance and Distributed Learning has changed a small community college into a regional campus to serve a state audience. We fill a need for students that want to pursue higher education, but do not always have the

Special points of interest:

- Technology
- Blackboard
- Distance Learning
- DDL, Inside & Out



Visit as [EasyBib](#) and [OttoBib](#) for freebie assistance.

Website of the Month

Just about every college course requires a formal essay or two regardless of delivery format. For students that don't have a photographic memory or haven't memorized the MLA handbook, a "works cited" page can be a very time-consuming part of any research paper, thesis



or report.

The next time a question arises about the correct location of the publication date, try an online bibliography generator. These free programs do the hard work for you. Enter information on a fill-

in-the-blank page and your citation will appear in proper form. Visit some of the more popular bibliography generators such as [EasyBib](#) and [OttoBib](#).

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Time to Begin Wrapping up the Semester and Register for Spring Classes

It is a busy time of year for students and faculty alike. Some key dates to share and remember:

- Advance Registration for Spring 2007 is going on now.
- 01/07/2007—Tuition due
- 01/08/2007—Classes begin
- 01/22/2007—Last day to add a course and receive tuition refund.

Library Hours:

- Monday—Thursday, 7:45a.m.—9:00p.m.
- Friday, 7:45a.m.—4:30p.m.
- Saturday—closed
- Sunday, 1:00p.m.—5:00p.m.



for an easy way to remember it when you get home? Keep all your favorite links/bookmarks

in Blackboard.

Add the Bookmarks Module On the SWCC tab directly across from the SWCC

- Select the **Content Button**.
- On the Select Modules **check Bookmark**
- Click the **submit** button
- Click the **OK** button

Bookmark it in Blackboard!

- You should now have a new module on the SWCC tab labeled Bookmarks
- Select the **pencil button** on the top right corner of the module
- Enter your favorite link here
- Click **Submit**



DDL is located on the SwVCC Richlands campus on second floor of Russell Hall. Staff can be reached 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday. DDL can be reached by phone @ 276.964.7279, fax @ 276.964.7686 or by email, sylvia.dye@sw.edu.

*Don't forget:
Registration for
spring classes is going
on now!*