

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Technology
- Blackboard
- Electronic Classrooms
- Teaching Techniques
- Delivery Facilitation

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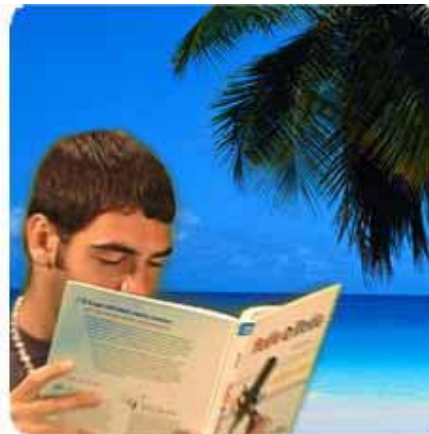
Distance Course Enrollment Up

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



Online learning has made a tremendous leap into mainstream education.

enrollment has increased 288% over the last decade. Most are working adults 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 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.



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, consider having students try an online bibliography generator. These free programs do the hard

work for them. Enter information on a fill-in-the-blank page and the citation will appear in proper form. Some of the more popular bibliography generators are [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.

Remind students that registration is going on now for the spring semester.

Copying Course Material from One Course to the Next

Many times you have material that could be recycled into your current course. One option is to copy the entire course or sections of a class to your current semester and edit, remove, and rearrange only the pieces that need modification. To copy your course:

- You must log into the BB and go to the class that contains your material (the old course).
- Click on the **Control Panel**
- Select **Course Copy**. Course Copy is located in the Course Option Section (First column – 4 option in group). Choose Course Copy.
- Select **Copy Course Materials into an Existing Course**. If you know the

destination course ID, you may enter it or click the Browse button and enter search criteria (Like ENG for English).

- **Check** the Material you would like to copy to your current course.
- Click the **Submit** button
- Click the **OK** button. You will receive an email notifying you that the process has been completed.



What do you want to hear?
All SwVCC faculty and staff are encouraged to submit items or request topics for inclusion. Email comments or suggestions to: lanna.lumpkins@sw.edu