Distance Education Affinity Group: Best Practices for Online Learning – Embracing our Students Educational Needs Through Technology

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Panelists and Affiliations

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- Beth Ritter- Guth, Director of Instructional Design and American Honors – Union County College, DEAG Secretary
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What is the DEAG (Distance Education Affinity Group)?

The New Jersey Distance Education Affinity Group (NJDEAG) was formerly known as the New Jersey Virtual Community College Consortium (NJVCCC). It is a partnership of the State’s 19 community colleges.

Our Mission Statement

The New Jersey Distance Education Affinity Group (NJDEAG), a collegial effort involving all New Jersey Community Colleges, provides value and support through cooperative purchasing, collaborative professional development opportunities, online course quality assurance, inter-institutional communication and other initiatives.

http://www.njvccc.cc.nj.us/
Question 1: Please describe the Administration and Structure of Distance Education at your Institution.

- Academic Affairs
- Information Technology
- Offers Online Degrees
- Number of courses
- Master Course Shells developed by Faculty or Generated each semester
- Publisher affiliations
Question 2: What are the Middle States Standards for Distance Education and how is your Institution complying?

- Substantive Change Report
- Student Verification
- Standards
- Student Support Essentials
- Tutoring, Library Resources, ADA
Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE.org)

New MSCHE Standards

- Standard 1: Mission and Goals
- Standard 2: Ethics and Integrity
- Standard 3: Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience
- Standard 4: Support of the Student Learning Experience
- Standard 5: Educational Effectiveness Administration
- Standard 6: Planning Resources and Institutional Improvement
- Standard 7: Governance, Leadership & Administration

Verification of Compliance with Accreditation-Relevant Federal Regulations Implementation for 2015

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education, as a federally recognized accreditor, is obligated to ensure that its candidate and member institutions comply with accreditation-relevant federal regulations. This document is focused on the Commission’s verification of institutional compliance in several areas:

1. Student identity verification in distance and correspondence education
2. Transfer of credit policies and articulation agreements
3. Title IV program responsibilities
4. Assignment of credit hours
Question 3: What are some of the Digital Resources you found helpful in developing Online Courses?

- OER (Open Educational Resources)
- Publisher based content
- Tech Smith
- YouTube
- Database support
- Universal Design
What is Universal Design for Learning?

• The three principles of UDL:
  • Provide Multiple Means of Representation
  • Provide Multiple Means of Action and Expression
  • Provide Multiple Means of Engagement
Universal Design for Learning

- Make education more responsive to learner differences
- Ensure benefits of education distributed equitably and effectively
UDL Guideline 1: Examples

• Accurate captions in media files (including YouTube)
Narrator says: “Let’s briefly go through the nine building blocks.”

YouTube reads: “drink new things this briefly gave you can rebuild”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoAOzMTLP5s
Question 4: How do you support Student Retention and Graduation in Online Courses?

• Student Orientation: Online and In Person
• Online Advisors
• Tutoring Resources: Smart Thinking, Net Tutor, etc
• College Success Course
• Online Learning Success Test
Question 5: How do you maintain Quality and Academic Standards in your online courses?

• Quality Matters Rubric
• OLC certification
• Faculty committees
• Universal Design for Learning
  • Make education more responsive to learner differences
  • Ensures benefits of education distributed equitably and effectively
  • Essential for Some, Good for All!
Question 6: How do you effectively engage student discussions and active participation in online courses?

• Ongoing Faculty Training
• Faculty engagement through discussion boards.
• Email
• Universal Design for Learning
  • Appropriate challenges and support
• Divide long-term goals into short-term objectives
• Provide feedback
• Rubrics and Assessments
Questions??????