Technology know how: What distance learners need to know

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Polling Question

Do you currently teach an online course, or have you taught an online course in the past?
Purpose

◊ Advantages of online classes
  • Flexibility
  • Financial
  • Convenience

◊ Purpose of needs assessment
  • Skills
  • Knowledge

◊ Research
The Big Idea

◊ Unemployment & economy
The Big Idea

◊ Unemployment & economy

◊ Increased enrollment
The Big Idea

◊ Unemployment & economy
◊ Increased enrollment
◊ Technology skills
Background

◊ Online classes
  • 10.6% of students
Background

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◊ Online programs
  • 60% of learning institutions
Background

◊ Online classes
  - 10.6% of students

◊ Online programs
  - 60% of learning institutions

◊ Assessing technology skills
  - Surveys
Questions

◊ What skills are most important for distance learners to have in order to succeed in online classes?

◊ What can instructors do in order to assess the skills of their distance learners?
Methods

◊ Target audience
  • UH Faculty
Methods

◊ Target audience
  • UH Faculty

◊ Why I chose this subject
  • New & Returning students
Methods

◊ Target audience
  ● UH Faculty

◊ Why I chose this subject
  ● New & returning students

◊ Electronic Survey
  ● Likert-scale questions
Methods

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◊ Why I chose this subject
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◊ Electronic Survey
  • Likert-scale questions

◊ Implementation
  • UH System
Discussion

◊ Enrollment at UHMC
  • Increased 5.2% this semester
  • Blended

◊ Institutions offering online classes

◊ Student skills
  • Having the right skills

◊ Assessment
  • Done at the beginning
Results

◊ Class management systems
  • Laulima or Moodle

◊ Word processing programs
  • MS Word or Works

◊ Navigating the Internet

◊ Downloading information and videos
Results

◊ Submitting assignments through Laulima

◊ Taking and submitting quizzes online

◊ Using discussion boards
  • Laulima or Ning

◊ Using online video programs, presentation software, and blogs
◊ “Some of my students don’t know how to use their computers!”

◊ “…the need to be techno-literate is...essential...just to get into my virtual office.”

◊ “Students are unprepared all around in this arena...we are not assisting them in becoming successful students.”
◊ “I think...during the registration process [students] need to be informed again of...technical and hardware requirements for an online course.”

◊ “My classes require the basic on-line skills; basic Laulima skills.”

◊ “It would be great if students were required to take a workshop in using Laulima.”
Recommendations

◊ Assign a short project at the beginning of class
  • Demonstrate necessary skills

◊ Hold face-to-face session with online students before class
  • Computer capabilities
  • Access to resources
Recommendations

◊ Classes offered on campus to help students learn required skills
  ● VITEC or TLC

◊ Instructors create how-to manuals
  ● Required technology
  ● Reference

◊ Computer placement testing
  ● TLC
  ● Math and English
Conclusion

◊ Most important skills

◊ Additional research
  • Broaden target audience

◊ Instructors must recognize a lack of skills
  • Do assessments at the beginning of class

◊ Student satisfaction
  • Retention
Questions

Thank you for listening to my presentation.

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