

8.0 Grant Evaluation and Administration

Goal 8A. An independent evaluation will be conducted to determine whether the funding helped OSU Distance and Continuing Education meet the project goals.

Summary

Goal 8A. External Project Evaluation

The evaluation is proceeding as planned for the OSU Distance Education Project. Project objectives include:

- The development of nearly one hundred courses,
- Creation of a comprehensive course development strategy, and
- Addressing faculty and administrative issues that arise from the new course development strategy and the integration of academic and distance education units that that strategy entails.

Project evaluation, therefore, focuses on organizational and cultural change aspects of the grant and advantages and disadvantages of the new course development procedures. As part of the grant a new common course evaluation instrument (called in the grant a "common assessment instrument") is to be developed. While student-learning outcomes are being assessed in each of the courses developed, only a few of these are assessing differences between online and face-to-face or multi-modal instruction under the direction of the associate director with input from the evaluator. Findings from these studies will be incorporated into the third year final report.

Collection of evaluation data is based on progress made during the grant. A site visit was conducted in October 2000 to determine progress during the first year of funding. The start/end date of the grant cycle conflicts with the start/end dates of academic quarters in the Oregon University System institutions. Therefore, the site visit was conducted after the start of the fall quarter, after the start of the second year of the grant. Evaluation data are collected when appropriate based on the rhythms of the project. No problems have been encountered gathering evaluation data for the project. Other than the offset necessitated by the coincidence of the end of the grant year and academic quarter, no changes or delays to the evaluation plan have been made.