

8. Grant Evaluation and Administration

Goal 8A. An independent evaluation will be conducted to determine whether the funding helped OSU Extended Campus meet the project goals.

Summary

Goal 8A. External Project Evaluation

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

- The development of 99 distance education 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.

In this third year of the project, when the course development has exceeded its goal of creating 99 distance delivered courses, the project evaluation has put more attention on the strategic assessment and evaluation of the organizational and cultural change within the Departments, Colleges, University, and community in general, as a result of this OSU Distance Education Project. The external evaluator (National Center for Higher Education Management Systems -- NCHEMS) particularly focused on assessing the relationships between the Extended Campus and OSU's academic units (Colleges and Departments). The questions focused on "how the academic units perceive and accept the role of the Extended Campus in advancing distance education at OSU". Additionally, the external evaluation assessed how colleges and departments collaborate with the Extended Campus and how they organize their joint cooperation for long-term goals.

A three-day site visit by the external evaluator was conducted in May of 2002 to assess the progress and evaluate the organizational and cultural impacts and sustainability of the distance education initiative at OSU. The evaluator identified the sample to be interviewed. Thirty individuals, including faculty, staff, and top-level OSU administrators in the University, several Colleges, and Departments were interviewed. Specific data were also collected from Extended Campus' personnel. Findings from this external evaluation will be made available to all relevant parties including OSU top-level administration, Deans, Department Chairs, and Faculty. The findings will also be made available online, in the near future, at the OSU Ecampus ADEPT Website:

<http://ecampus.oregonstate.edu/de>