An Introduction to Online Education
K-12, Collegiate and Beyond

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Did you know?

Ross University (ISOM) is part of DeVry Inc.

The Apollo Group (U. Phoenix parent company) has a market capitalization of $10.03 Billion and FY09 EPS of 4.6.

No established means for outcomes comparison between online institutions and traditional institutions.
The **Elephant** in the Room

ding! new spam!

The Diploma Mill!
Get an Online PhD, only $5!

No work necessary!

I don't know whether to feel stupid or outraged.

Photograph by Frank Wouters: http://www.everystockphoto.com/photo.php?imageld=13883#tab-info
Is it as good as....?

No significant difference.¹

Assumes that traditional models are ‘best’.²

Current models are unsustainable.³,⁴

- geographic disparity
- aging teacher populace
- cost

Learning from a distance is not new.

What has changed over time is the delivery mechanism.

Postal → Radio → TV → VHS/DVD → Internet → ???
Many Different Flavors
Many Possible Combinations

Blended
Asynchronous
For Profit
K-6
7-12

Fully Online
Synchronous
Not For Profit
Collegiate
Graduate
Non-Degree
Let me tell you about Growth?

Collegiate:

In Fall 2006 3.5 million students were taking at least one online course.

Annualized growth in online enrollments Fall 05 – Fall 06: 9.7%¹

K-12:

Enrollment exceeded 1 million students in 07-08 (2% of K-12 population).

Annualized growth in online enrollments Fall 06 – Fall 07: 47%²

² International Association for the Advancement of K-12 Online Education (iNACOL). (2009). Fast facts about online learning. Vienna, VA: iNACOL.

A Disruptive Innovation?

Or another Skinner Box?
What Do Students Think?

Collegiate 03-04\(^1\):
- 32% more satisfied
- 34% felt comparable
- 32% less satisfied

K-12 06-07\(^2\):
- 32% more satisfied
- 28% felt comparable
- 40% less satisfied

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What do higher ed faculty think?

70 Percent of all faculty feel online courses are either inferior or somewhat inferior.

But…

Of those with online teaching experience, 48% feel either inferior or somewhat inferior.

Oddly…

A majority who feel online is inferior have recommend online courses to student.¹

Why?¹

Lack of Institutional support

Lack of Course Development Support

Lack of Pedagogical Support

Lack of Incentive (monetary and non-monetary)

Ambiguous Intellectual Property Issues

What About K-12 Online Teachers?

Virtual schooling provides unique opportunities for students and teachers.\(^1\)

Virtual schooling provides the opportunity for the development of deep relationships with students.\(^2\)

Yet...no credentialing or certification needed to teach online.\(^3\)


The LMS/CMS

Today’s online classroom is facilitated by a learning management (LMS) or content management system (CMS):

- UF currently uses Vista (Moodle in a couple spots around campus, ICHP and COE)
- UF migrating to Sakkai (open source)
- Blackboard (industry leader), Angel, Moodle (open source)…. 
Online Content

**Minimalist** – collaborative, discussion based

**Bells and whistles** – solo, self-paced

[link]
## Moodle

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### Moodle

#### Forum Posts: Add discussion, add post, delete discussion, delete post, move discussion, print post, update post

**29 Student**

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Questions, comments, follow-up:

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