

-DRAFT 6/11/2008-
Humboldt State University Distance Education
Strategic Goals

Humboldt State University recognizes that new technologies are changing the nature of higher education. We are challenged to meet the instructional needs of our students and to provide new educational opportunities with increasingly scarce resources. Many universities have answered this challenge by developing distance education programs. Research has shown that distance education can be an effective means of facilitating student learning when it is well structured and aligns with the strategic goals of the institution.

Attempting to replicate our entire curriculum or degree programs in an on-line format as some universities have done is not in our strategic or financial interest. Instead, Humboldt State University seeks to develop distance learning programs that support the following objectives:

1. Facilitating student progress towards graduation.
2. Creating new opportunities for student enrollment, particularly for place-bound students from communities already served by HSU.
3. Increasing efficiency in resource use and classroom utilization.
4. Supporting emerging pedagogies that enhance student learning.
5. Preparing students for lifelong learning.

To direct resources to support these objectives, the following distance education initiatives will be given first priority:

1. Independent or blended courses that fulfill upper-division general education requirements.
2. Program completion, certificate, or other arrangements of courses that help the university serve place-bound students for whom traveling to the Arcata campus is not feasible.
3. Course proposals that use emerging pedagogies or new learning paradigms (such as gaming or other interactive models) to engage students.

All new distance learning initiatives should also align with university enrollment management objectives, provide measures that document the effectiveness of the course or program, and follow the guidelines of HSU *General University Policy on Distance Education* (August, 2006) and WASC *Good Practices for Electronically Offered Degree and Certificate Programs*.