DISTANCE LEARNING & INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIES
UNT | DALLAS
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS AT DALLAS
e-learning

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Year 1, Number 14

Quality Assurance
for blended & online courses

The Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies is responsible for reviewing all distance learning (online and hybrid) courses based on the quality standards. With University of North Texas Dallas increase of quality assurance standards for the Spring 2016 semester, our office will offer an additional workshop in hopes of assisting our faculty develop a quality online course. Topics to be discussed during each of these one-hour sessions include a:

- Review of UNTD's basic online quality standards
- Review of UNTD's additional online quality standards adopted for Spring 2016
- Review of online content in UNTD Faculty Example Template course shell that meets our checklist instrument.

Each session will also include a working lab with available laptops for you to use, if desired.

Workshop Times: **Register Here**

- Tuesday, December 8 | 10:00 am – 11:00 am | DAL2, Rm 127
- Tuesday, December 8 | 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm | DAL2, Rm 127
- Tuesday, December 8 | 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm | DAL2, Rm 127

(NOTE: Room capacity is 10 for each session).

Instructional Digital Media Services

Online video is popular. It's persuasive. It's globally available in multiple platforms. It can convey the UNTD experience — the people and the place — in a way that few other communications vehicles can.

Video production — planning, filming, editing — can be surprisingly time-consuming, even when the video is short. Before embarking on a video project, determine whether video is the most efficient and effective way to send a message or solve a problem in your teaching & learning

process. Will photography work just as well? Can written information get the message across faster to your students?

Remember that if video is the best medium for your purposes, **WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!**

We appreciate your decision to use the Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies for your educational digital media needs. To make our process of making video and audio recordings more efficient we have instituted the following guidelines that will help us provide a better service:

Instructional Technologies Video and Audio Recording Guidelines

- Please note there are **no recurring dates and times**. This policy has been instituted because of frequent last minute cancellations and no shows.
- To schedule a video/audio recording please contact Brian Miller (**Brian.Miller@untdallas.edu**) to schedule your session. Please fill out a video/ audio recording session form by clicking the following link: https://unt.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_25WoxwikCfLkT2t .
- An Outlook (Office 365) calendar meeting request will be sent to you confirming your appointment. If you do not receive a calendar request, please contact Brian at Brian.Miller@untdallas.edu . Make sure to confirm your appointment by accepting the calendar request.
- Please inform our department of all cancellations by either clicking cancel on the calendar meeting request **(within 24-48 hours)** or sending an email confirming your cancellation **(within 24-48 hours)** of your scheduled session.

Please note: These guidelines do not cover Special Event video recordings. It only addresses any videos/audios for distance learning courses as well as classroom videos, classroom videos on location, audio recordings, or green/blue screen recordings.

More on the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements: SARA
Higher Education needs a new way for states to oversee the delivery of postsecondary distance education.

The current process is too varied among the states to assure consistent consumer protection, too cumbersome and expensive for institutions that seek to provide education across state borders, and too fragmented to support our country's architecture for quality assurance in higher education — the quality assurance "triad" of accrediting agencies, the federal government, and the states.

A new, voluntary process of state oversight of distance education has been created to redress these problems. The **State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement** is a voluntary agreement among its member states and U.S. territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance-education courses and programs. It is intended to make it easier for students to take online courses offered by postsecondary institutions based in another state.

Problems

- States and territories regulate higher education within their borders, with varying requirements for out-of-state institutions that want to do business in the state.
- Cross-state online education offered by colleges and universities is expanding dramatically.
- At present there is no alternative to each institution separately pursuing any needed approvals (state authorization) in each state and territory where it enrolls students.
- Consequently, thousands of institutions are required to contact and work through as many as 54 states and territories, and, sometimes, with multiple regulatory agencies in those states.
- That process is inefficient, costly, and not effective in supporting access to high quality distance education throughout the country.

Solution

The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) establishes a state-level reciprocity process that will support the nation in its efforts to increase the educational attainment of its people by making state authorization:

- more efficient, effective, and uniform in regard to necessary and reasonable standards of practice that could span states;
- more effective in dealing with quality and integrity issues that have arisen in some online/ distance education offerings; and
- less costly for states and institutions and, thereby, the students they serve.

Key Points

- SARA is voluntary for states and institutions.
- Administered by the four regional higher education compacts (Midwestern Higher Education Compact, New England Board of Higher Education, Southern Regional Education Board, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education), which began accepting applications from states in their regions in early 2014. Once states are approved, they can begin to enroll eligible institutions.
- Membership is open to degree-granting postsecondary institutions from all sectors (public colleges and universities; independent institutions, both non-profit and for-profit) accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Benefits to States

- Expands educational offerings to state residents.
- Allows SARA states to focus on their home-state institutions, rather than on institutions from many other states.
- Maintains state regulation of on-the-ground instruction offered by out-of-state institutions.
- Other SARA states will help resolve complaints. (SARA states commit to resolving complaints from distance education offered by their institutions.)
- Reduces costs for institutions, lessening this particular need to raise fees and thereby supporting affordability.
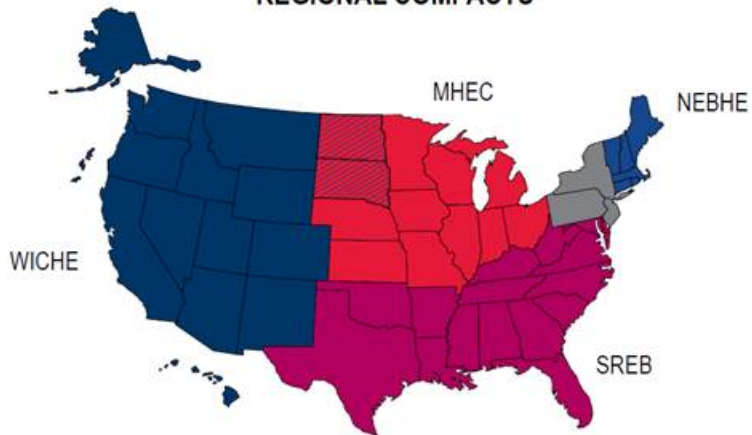- No cost to states.

Benefits to Institutions

- Enables more efficient provision of distance education to a broader market.
- Reduces number of other-state regulations to continually monitor and track.
- Reduces number of applications and individual state requirements.
- Reduces costs.
  » Applications, surety bonds, agent licenses, etc.
  » Staff (payroll and time).
  » Reduced costs = potentially lower fees for students.

Benefits to Students

- Expands access to educational offerings.
- Should lead to better resolution of complaints from students in SARA states.
- Reduces a rapidly growing institutional cost that is passed along to students.
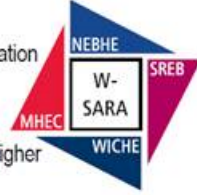- Should enhance overall quality of distance education.

REGIONAL COMPACTS

MHEC
Midwestern Higher Education Compact

NEBHE
New England Board of Higher Education

SREB
Southern Regional Education Board

WICHE
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Source: National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA)
http://nc-sara.org/

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(Click the images to read the articles)

eLearning Industry

The Impact Of Social Intelligence In eLearning http://dlvr.it/CgxqFN #eLearningDesignandDevelopment #EmotionalIntelligence

Faculty Development

If you enjoy listing to podcasts, the "Teaching in Higher Ed" podcast is definitely one to subscribe to...it's free and includes teaching perspectives, resources, and new ideas from some of the leading faculty and thought leaders on teaching today.

Improving My Teaching via Podcast
An array of compelling conversations on college...
chronicle.com

> "
> Remember to celebrate even the smallest victories because they are BIG to those (students) who achieve them.
>
> – JULIA WARD ORTLOFF, EDUCATOR
>
> eduropia

Contact Us!
The **Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies** invites faculty and staff to join and participate in our development programs. These events provide an opportunity to network with faculty from other departments, learn new instructional strategies and tools, and become aware of best practices in online teaching and learning. Hope to see you there, and don't forget to register for our workshops and sessions!
Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events:

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