Distance Learning Definitions

SPC has defined two areas pertaining to distance learning: how courses are tracked and reported across the college and how programs are evaluated.

Courses

Course definitions are based upon the Florida state report data elements for the delivery of direct instruction.

Face-to-Face (on campus): Instruction represents less than 30% of the course is facilitated using technology where the student and instructor are separated by time, space or both. SPC protocols ensure that all on campus courses have a Learning Management System (LMS) shell in which instructors post the course syllabus, grades, and the shell serves as the point of delivery for the online course evaluation.

Blended (hybrid): A course that blends face-to-face and online delivery. 30-79% of the direct instruction of the course is facilitated and delivered using technology where the student and instructor are separated by time, space or both. All SPC protocols for on campus courses are adhered to with additional instructor led coursework posted for student engagement of learning.

Online (distance learning): 80% or more of the direct instruction of the course is delivered using some form of technology when the student and instructor are separated by time, space or both. All SPC protocols for on campus courses are adhered to with additional instructor led coursework posted for student engagement of learning. (Note that test proctoring may be required in some courses.)

Programs

Program definitions are based upon a combination of the types of courses that are offered within a program plan.

Face-to-Face: A program whose courses are offered solely in the face-to-face modality.

Student Choice (mixed delivery): A program whose course offerings (or section offerings of a single course) may include face-to-face, blended, or online modalities. Students in these programs are not cohort bound and thus can choose to take courses in any modality they choose, often switching between modalities throughout their program of study. The Student Choice option takes into consideration the unique nature of a community college student, who typically has various other personal responsibilities and commitments and may not be a full-time student.

Online: A program whose courses are offered solely in the online modality.