



Distance Education Enrollments at Illinois Colleges and Universities

Executive Summary

Online course enrollments account for 87% of all distance education enrollment with 145,740 out of the 167,781 total enrollments for Spring/Winter 2007.

Distance Education Enrollments

A survey completed by the Illinois Virtual Campus shows that there were **167,781** distance education enrollments in **10,511** distance education courses for the Spring/Winter 2007 term. This is a **16%** increase in enrollment from Spring/Winter 2006 when there were **9,922** courses and **144,610** enrollments.

Online Course Enrollments

Illinois colleges and universities reported offering **8,143** online class sections that generated **145,740** enrollments during the Spring/Winter 2007 term. This is an increase of **975** online course sections (**14%**) and **25,523** enrollments (**21%**) from the **7,168** online course sections and **120,217** enrollments reported for the Spring/Winter 2006 term.

Sharpen the Focus

Phone interviews with selected institutions sharpen the focus to provide a deeper understanding of distance education enrollment trends in Illinois.

The phone interviews were conducted in June 2007 and included three community colleges and a state university. College of DuPage, Lake Land College, Southwestern Illinois College and Southern Illinois University Carbondale were chosen.

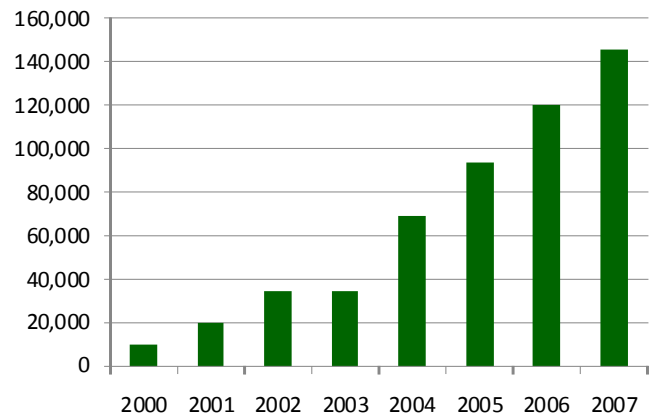
The interview consisted of five questions. The questions and individual responses are interspersed with the numerical enrollment data within this report.

To view the entire “Sharpen the Focus” see <http://www.ivc.illinois.edu/pubs/sharpen.asp>

Enrollments in Online Courses

This graph shows the online course enrollments reported by Illinois colleges and universities for the Spring terms since Spring 2000.

Enrollments in Online Courses at Illinois Colleges and Universities Spring 2000 to Spring 2007



Sharpen the Focus

Will your institution be offering any new completely online programs in the next academic year? If so, in what area(s)?

College of DuPage (COD) – College of DuPage currently offers the Associate in Arts and Associate in General Studies degrees fully online. Several certificates are currently available online including: Management, Supervision, Marketing, Consumer Marketing, Office Technology Information Essentials, and Word Specialist. New online certificate programs in 2007 will include Administrative Assistant and Executive Assistant.

Lake Land College – We will not be offering any new completely online degree programs within the next academic year. However, we offer approximately 15 newly developed courses each year.

Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) – SWIC continues to develop and grow its distance learning program. Online instruction has experienced the greatest growth of its three distance learning formats (telecourse, online and video conferencing). In addition, Web-enhanced instruction has experienced tremendous growth in the traditional classroom setting at SWIC. Today, 356 traditional courses are enhanced with WebCT supplemented instruction. As society has evolved, SWIC instructors and students have tended to gravitate to technology-enhanced instruction whether it’s online or Web supplemented. Currently, SWIC is a few courses shy of offering a complete online degree. However, new courses are being developed each semester to continue to better serve students.

Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) – Some programs are currently under discussion. However the plans are not finalized.

Sharpen the Focus

Describe your typical distance education student.

COD – The majority of enrolled distance learners at College of DuPage are between the ages of 18 and 24 and are primarily female. Online courses, telecourses, and print-based flexible learning courses are the most heavily enrolled formats. Many students complete individual courses leading to degree or certificate completion. Nearly 70% of online students surveyed in Spring 2007 indicated that the primary reason they took an online course was because the flexibility of the online course allowed them to choose the time and place to participate in the course. Fewer than 10% indicated that they enrolled in an online course because the classroom version was closed or scheduled at an inconvenient time. We interpret these findings to mean that students are enrolling in online courses based on their preferences and needs.

Lake Land – The average age of our distance education student is between 18 and 40. Most of the students are females who live in-district and are part-time students. Our students are taking individual online courses working toward a degree or certificate. Their degree or certificate may or may not be an online program.

SWIC – The profile of our typical distance education student is:

- * Female
- * Single
- * Mostly in her twenties and then thirties
- * Mostly in-district
- * Returning student
- * Works full time (the next largest group works part-time of 15 hours or more)
- * Students are usually preparing to transfer classes to a 4-year college or university (the next largest group is preparing for a future job after attending SWIC)
- * Students are taking individual online classes only because we do not yet offer a fully online degree.

SIUC – I would say we have a broad spectrum of students. We have an online sequence of 5 courses in Behavioral Analysis Therapy that leads to certification. These are older, professionals. Our other students range between 18-60.

Changes in Enrollment by Delivery Mode

Online Enrollment Percentage

Online enrollments accounted for **87%** of all distance

education enrollments in the Spring/Winter 2007 term compared to **83%** of the total enrollments in the Spring/Winter 2006 term.

All Other Delivery Mode Percentage

While enrollments in Internet courses increased significantly, enrollments in Interactive TV and stored media decreased. Enrollments in Interactive TV decreased **6%** and enrollments in stored media decreased by **19%** from Spring 2006. Table 2 in the appendix shows the change in distance education enrollments by delivery mode from Spring 2006 to Spring 2007.

Sharpen the Focus

What is the process at your institution for creating new online courses? Do your instructors need approval in advance? Is there a staff to help them with the technology and pedagogy of online learning?

COD – New online courses are developed at College of DuPage primarily through an annual Request for Proposals process. Proposals must be aligned with institutional, division or discipline goals. Faculty may submit a proposal to develop a new online or flexible learning course in fall semester and, if approved, complete course development in the spring semester using reassigned time. Faculty submitting proposals must have the approval of their Dean or Associate Dean and support of the discipline faculty. A unique partnership exists among the Office of Instructional Development, Information Systems and Teaching and Learning Center in support of college-wide course development. The Office of Instructional Development coordinates the course development process and provides instructional design consultation to faculty who are developing new courses or revising existing courses. The area of Information Systems, including an instructional design specialist and programmers, support faculty in online course development. The Coordinator of Faculty Development arranges ongoing faculty development opportunities through the Teaching and Learning Center.

Lake Land – There is a step-by-step process for course approval. First the instructor gets approval from the division chair of his/her department, then the Director of Learning Technologies checks to see that the course meets the requirements set and the instructor has the technological ability to teach online. After these steps are complete, approval must be granted by the Associate Vice President of Educational Service and the Vice President of Academic Services.

Our instructors have access to our Center for Technology and Professional Development which offer courses on the use of the learning management system,

pedagogy of online learning and training on media for distance education such as Camtasia, Elluminate, and Respondus.

SWIC – Instructors who are interested in teaching an online course simply coordinate with their department chair/dean.

Our college has an excellent instructional design team to help faculty get their online courses up and running. They support faculty in the design, development and implementation of the course materials. Professional development workshops are provided for faculty in addition to customized, individual training.

SIUC – To create a new online course the first step is to obtain departmental approval. The instructors do need approval in advance. Staff is available through the Instructional Support Service at the Library as well as an instructional designer in the Office of Distance Education. They assist faculty with pedagogy, instructional design and technology.

University of Illinois at Chicago (4,903) and **University of Illinois at Springfield (3,509)** from the public universities.

DeVry University (59,875) from the independent for-profit colleges and universities.

DePaul University (5,204) from the independent not-for-profit colleges and universities.

Online Enrollments by Sector

Community College Enrollment

During the Spring 2007 term, community colleges reported offering **3,829** online course sections that generated **51,539** enrollments.

Public University Enrollment

Public universities reported offering **952** online course sections that generated **18,902** enrollments.

Independent For-Profit Colleges and Universities

Independent for-profit colleges and universities reported offering **2,508** online courses that generated **61,193** enrollments.

Independent Not-For-Profit Colleges and Universities

Independent not-for-profit colleges and universities reported offering **854** online courses that generated **14,106** enrollments.

Institutions with the largest online enrollments

The Illinois institutions reporting the largest online course enrollments during the Spring 2007 term in each sector of higher education in Illinois were:

Parkland College (3,573) and **College of DuPage (3,440)** from the community college system.

Sharpen the Focus

What is the most important trend in distance education at your institution?

COD – An important trend in distance education is the continued growth in online course enrollment, including general education and career areas. Also, the age demographic indicates an increasing number of traditional age students are enrolling in online courses.

Lake Land – The most important relational data we are seeing involves the retention rates for online students. Lake Land College has been consistent in retaining online students, averaging around seventy-seven percent. We will be looking at ways to increase the retention rates of students taking online courses. One way we are looking to increase the retention rate is by creating a peer mentoring program for online students. The mentors would be students who have taken the course online in the past and been successful. The mentors would help students in the course succeed in the online environment by helping them through the mechanics of the learning management system, modeling effective behavior, appropriately communicating with the instructor and fellow students, and offering advice about the course in general. This program has been successful at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

SWIC – Online courses, combined with Web supplemented traditional instruction, are paving the way for hybrid instruction which also appears to be a growing interest at SWIC. Most recently, the use of iPods and podcasting in online instruction is being explored. A pilot group, known as the “iPod Innovators” was created in Spring 2007. The purpose of developing the pilot was to promote discussion, collaboration, and exploration among leaders in instruction, technology, and distance learning in the use of iPods and Podcasting in education at Southwestern Illinois College.

SIUC – There is a trend toward offering more certification and degree programs rather than individual courses.

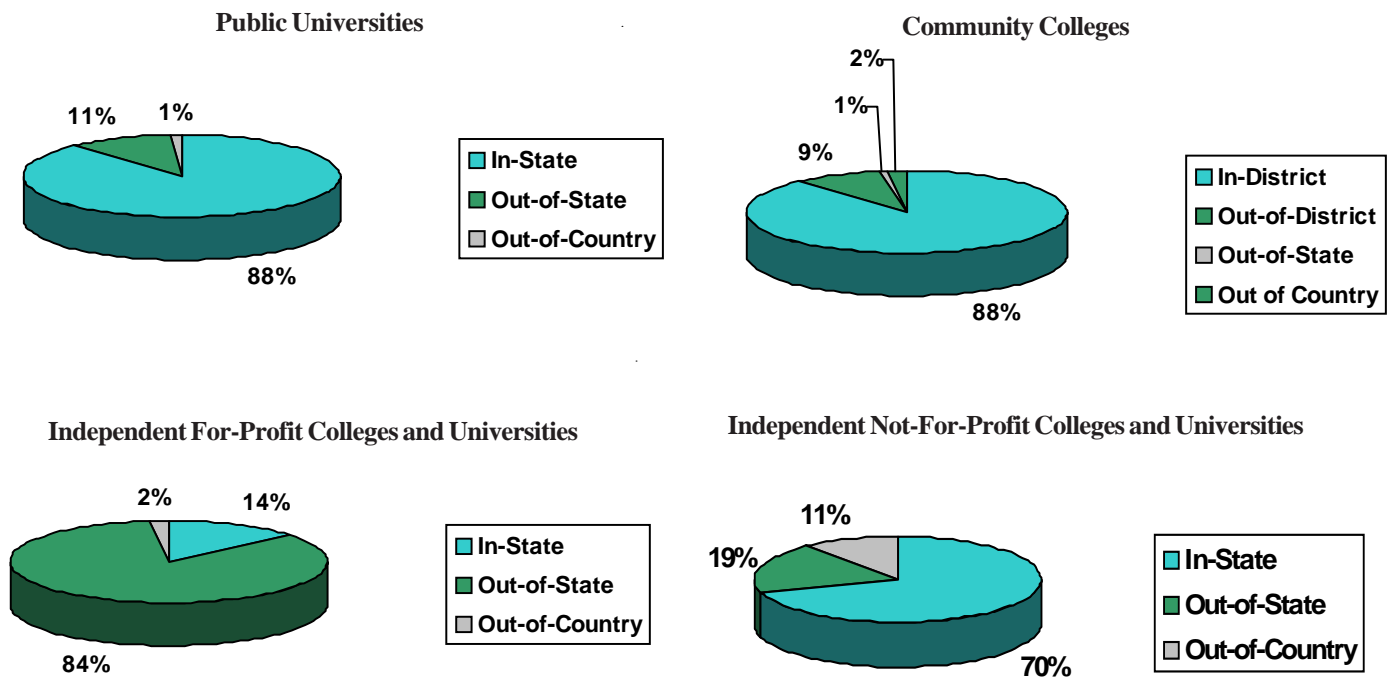
Online Enrollments by Residency

The vast majority of all online course enrollments reported by Illinois public colleges and universities were from students residing in the state. Independent colleges and universities had a majority of online student course enrollments living in the USA outside of Illinois.

The residency of students enrolled in online courses varied by sector with community colleges having the highest percentage of Illinois residents (**97%**), followed by the public universities (**88%**), and the independent not-for-profit colleges and universities (**69%**).

The graphs show the distributions of online enrollments at all Illinois public universities, public community colleges, independent for-profit colleges and universities, and independent not-for-profit colleges and universities by residency.

Online Enrollments at Illinois Colleges and Universities by Residency Spring 2007



The Illinois Virtual Campus greatly appreciates the cooperative effort of all Illinois colleges and universities and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) in submitting the distance education course enrollment data for this report.

Distance education enrollment reports for all terms since Fall 1999 can be found on the Illinois Virtual Campus website at <http://www.ivc.illinois.edu> in the Enrollment Report archives.

Appendix

The following tables show several different views of the course enrollments in distance education for the Spring Term 2007.

Table 1	Distance Education Enrollments by Delivery Mode
Table 2	Change in Distance Education Enrollments by Delivery Mode from Spring 2006 to Spring 2007
Table 3	Enrollments in Online and All Distance Education Courses by Sector
Table 4	Distance Education Enrollments by Sector and Delivery Mode
Table 5	Distance Education Enrollments by Delivery Mode - Fall 1999 to Spring 2007
Table 6	Distance Education Enrollments by Institution

Table 1
Spring Term 2007
Distance Education Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Delivery Mode

Delivery Mode	Courses		Enrollments	
	#	% Total	#	% Total
Internet	8,143	77.47%	145,740	86.86%
Stored Media	801	7.62%	9,806	5.84%
Interactive TV	620	5.90%	5,086	3.03%
Open Broadcast TV	328	3.12%	2,707	1.61%
Correspondence	619	5.89%	4,442	2.65%
Total	10,511	100.00%	167,781	100.00%

Table 2
Change in Distance Education Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Delivery Mode
from Spring 2006 to Spring 2007

Delivery Mode	Spring 2006	Spring 2007	Change	
Internet	120,217	145,740	+25,523	+21%
Stored Media	12,062	9,806	-2,256	-19%
Interactive TV	5,409	5,086	-323	-6%
Open Broadcast TV	2,419	2,707	+288	+12%
Correspondence	4,503	4,442	-61	-1%
All Distance Education	144,610	167,781	+23,171	+16%

Table 3
Spring Term 2007
Enrollments in Online and All Distance Education Courses
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Sector

Sector	Internet		All Distance	
	#	% Total	#	% Total
Community Colleges	51,539	35.36%	68,645	40.91%
Public Universities	18,902	12.97%	21,062	12.55%
Independent For Profit Colleges and Universities	61,193	41.99%	61,193	36.47%
Independent Not-For-Profit Colleges and Universities	14,106	9.68%	16,881	10.06%
All Institutions	145,740	100.00%	167,781	100.00%

Table 4
Spring Term 2007
Distance Education Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Sector and Delivery Mode

Sector	Internet	Stored Media	Interactive TV	Open Broadcast TV	Correspondence	Total
Community Colleges	51,539	7,614	4,253	2,032	3,207	68,645
Public Universities	18,902	24	720	543	873	21,062
Independent For-Profit Colleges & Universities	61,193	0	0	0	0	61,193
Independent Not-For-Profit Colleges & Universities	14,106	2,168	113	132	362	16,881
All Institutions	145,740	9,806	5,086	2,707	4,442	167,781

Table 5
Distance Education Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Delivery Mode
Fall 1999 to Spring 2007

Term	Internet	Stored Media	Interactive TV	Correspondence	Open Broadcast TV	All Distance Education
Fall 1999	5,887	5,264	3,695	N.R.	N.R.	14,846
Spring 2000	9,888	6,429	4,075	1,441	4,381	26,214
Fall 2000	13,582	10,174	5,916	3,187	4,303	37,162
Spring 2001	19,764	13,957	6,410	2,519	3,591	46,241
Summer 2001	13,332	12,232	1,769	2,578	2,692	32,603
Fall 2001	23,254	15,381	7,646	2,705	3,552	52,538
Spring 2002	34,155	20,052	7,547	3,963	3,302	69,019
Summer 2002	23,651	12,431	1,691	2,363	3,330	43,466
Fall 2002	40,550	15,337	6,416	2,909	4,001	69,213
Spring 2003	50,125	17,310	6,508	4,239	4,099	82,281
Summer 2003	34,399	13,068	1,519	2,620	2,525	54,131
Fall 2003	50,093	14,782	8,982	2,578	2,959	79,394
Spring 2004	69,015	17,158	5,707	5,201	2,587	99,668
Summer 2004	55,343	11,006	1,506	3,359	1,598	72,812
Fall 2004	80,165	14,821	5,936	5,205	1,801	107,928
Spring 2005	93,715	15,219	6,283	4,683	2,191	122,091
Summer 2005	76,875	9,924	1,250	3,460	1,530	93,039
Fall 2005	105,207	11,960	5,634	4,087	2,382	129,270
Spring 2006	120,217	12,062	5,409	4,503	2,419	144,610
Summer 2006	96,414	8,509	1,203	3,413	1,701	111,240
Fall 2006	127,383	9,174	5,341	4,124	2,450	148,472
Spring 2007	145,740	9,806	5,086	4,442	2,707	167,781

(N.R. = None Reported)

Table 6
Distance Education Enrollments
at Illinois Colleges and Universities
by Institution
Spring Term 2007

Institution	Internet	Broadcast TV	Interactive TV	Stored Media	Correspondence	Total
Black Hawk College	1,312	12	318	361	0	2,003
Blessing-Rieman College of Nursing	36	0	0	0	0	36
Bradley University	480	0	0	0	0	480
Carl Sandburg College	744	0	488	0	0	1,232
Chicago State University	805	0	0	0	0	805
City Colleges of Chicago						
Harold Washington College	655	550	0	0	0	1,205
Harry S. Truman College	178	170	0	0	0	348
Kennedy-King College	197	148	0	0	0	345
Malcolm X College	152	178	0	0	0	330
Olive-Harvey College	168	112	0	0	0	280
Richard J. Daley College	266	228	0	0	0	494
Wilbur Wright College	359	253	0	0	0	612
College of DuPage	3,440	32	0	1,207	2,665	7,344
College of Lake County	2,252	0	108	323	0	2,683
Danville Area Community College	979	0	0	0	0	979
DePaul University	5,204	0	0	0	0	5,204
DeVry University	59,875	0	0	0	0	59,875
Eastern Illinois University	906	0	0	0	0	906
Elgin Community College	468	0	0	710	0	1,178
Governors State University	1,220	543	0	0	111	1,874
Heartland Community College	795	0	157	0	0	952
Highland Community College	340	0	59	31	0	430
Illinois Central College	2,376	149	239	0	372	3,136
Illinois Eastern Community Colleges						
Frontier Community College	68	0	0	0	9	77
Lincoln Trail Community College	317	0	0	0	13	330
Olney Central College	617	0	0	0	71	688
Wabash Valley College	318	0	0	0	19	337
Illinois Institute of Technology	1,183	132	113	0	0	1,428
Illinois State University	1,119	0	0	0	0	1,119
Illinois Valley Community College	641	0	0	130	0	771
John Wood Community College	673	0	270	83	0	1,026
Joliet Junior College	1,645	0	0	464	0	2,109
Judson College	229	0	0	155	0	384
Kankakee Community College	930	0	0	0	41	971
Kaskaskia College	2,660	0	335	0	13	3,008
Kishwaukee College	1,237	76	17	0	0	1,330
Lake Land College	2,183	0	0	0	0	2,183
Lewis and Clark Community College	1,704	0	0	121	0	1,825
Lewis University	770	0	0	0	0	770
Lincoln Land Community College	1,624	27	0	0	0	1,651
McHenry County College	1,348	0	0	554	0	1,902
Midstate College	1,318	0	0	0	0	1,318
Moody Bible Institute	912	0	0	0	0	912
Moraine Valley Community College	1,968	0	0	278	0	2,246
Morton College	617	0	0	34	0	651
Northeastern Illinois University	0	0	60	0	0	60
Northern Illinois University	1,007	0	189	0	0	1,196

IVC Enrollment Report

Institution	Internet	Broadcast TV	Interactive TV	Stored Media	Correspondence	Total
Oakton Community College	1,228	0	53	273	0	1,554
Olivet Nazarene University	0	0	0	2,013	0	2,013
Parkland College	3,573	28	0	347	0	3,948
Prairie State College	505	0	0	17	0	522
Rend Lake College	820	61	315	50	4	1,250
Richland Community College	870	0	49	0	0	919
Rock Valley College	559	0	0	39	0	598
Roosevelt University	2,181	0	0	0	362	2,543
Rush University	1,288	0	0	0	0	1,288
Sauk Valley Community College	654	0	130	33	3	817
Shawnee Community College	311	0	343	274	0	928
South Suburban College	1,217	0	0	342	0	1,559
Southeastern Illinois College	905	0	100	13	0	1,018
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	1,801	0	0	0	351	2,152
Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	325	0	49	0	0	374
Southwestern Illinois College	1,295	0	559	994	0	2,848
Spoon River College	458	0	0	0	0	458
Triton College	1,727	0	0	428	0	2,155
University of Illinois at Chicago	4,903	0	219	0	0	5,122
University of Illinois at Springfield	3,509	0	0	0	0	3,509
University of Illinois at Urbana- Champaign	2,182	0	64	0	85	2,331
University of St. Francis	1,823	0	0	0	0	1,823
Waubensee Community College	2,047	8	713	255	0	3,023
Western Illinois University	1,125	0	139	24	326	1,614
William Rainey Harper College	2,139	0	0	253	0	2,392
Totals	145,740	2,707	5,086	9,806	4,442	167,781

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