
What's Wrong With Distance Learning – And What We Can Do About It

Stephen B. Knouse, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This article examines a number of problems with distance learning and ways to solve these problems. Specifically, the problems include lack of student discipline, lack of live class interaction, experiential exercises difficult to do, lack of immediate and interactive feedback, difficulty in testing, uncertainty about who is actually taking the course, lack of flexibility, and the course becomes a prisoner of the technology. To resolve these problems, I examine student discipline, building interactive activities with technology, online experiential exercises, build feedback through technology, allowing student interaction with faculty when taking tests, ID and password hurdles, maintain a data base of problems, and require at least some live interaction in distance learning courses. In addition, I discuss competition in the distance learning industry.

Keywords: Distance Learning, Student Discipline, Experiential Exercises, Feedback, Data Base of Problems